

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

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## BIRTH.

At 135, Wanchai Road, on the 20th instant, the wife of H. DIXON, of a son.

## ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The English mail of the 18th February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 19th March (28 days); and the Canadian mail of the 2nd March arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 23rd March (21 days).

## EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Telegraphic communication between Bolinao and Manila is restored.

A new agreement is said to have been concluded between China and Japan extending the period for the repayment of the indemnity by five years.

The cable which now lands at Cape Bolinao is to be extended to Manila. This will do away with the risk of stoppage of communication by damage to the land lines.

The Japanese have been for some time past quietly increasing the garrison at Weihaiwei, and it is now twice as strong as it was a year ago.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

The British North Borneo Company have, it is reported, decided to try tea, and they are about to plant up some 200 acres. An expert from Ceylon is going to report on the land.

A St. Patrick's Ball was given at Shanghai on the 17th March.

A Reuter's telegram states that subscriptions to the Chinese loan in Berlin largely exceeded the amount required. Nothing has transpired officially about the subscriptions to the London portion of the loan.

It was noticed that when the Russian Volunteer steamer *Saratow* passed through Nagasaki the other day, crammed with troops for Vladivostock, her armament was all in position, ready for any eventualities.

The scarcity of rice in Canton is causing much uneasiness. A system of supplying rice to the poor at a rate considerably below the market price has been established by the charitable institutions of the city.

Goods proceeding inland under transit pass may, under rules recently promulgated, be sold at any point *en route* and in portions. Formerly the goods had to be conveyed intact to the point mentioned in the pass. The new modification of the rules is considered of great value.

Referring to the strengthening of the defences of Hongkong, the *Straits Times* says that "inasmuch as it involves acquiring some little additional Chinese territory, it is perhaps unadvisable that British journalists should shriek vehemently when Russia and Germany make some little territorial arrangements with China."

A Reuter's telegram states that negotiations are proceeding in Paris between M. Hanotaux and the Chinese Minister that China shall not cede any portion of the four provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Yunnan, and Kweichow; for the prolongation of the railway from Lungchow into Yunnan and for a coaling station at Lui-chow (Kwongchauwan).

The Spanish transport *Isla de Luzon* arrived at Singapore on the 12th March with about 1,000 troops from the Philippines. Owing to the fresh breakout there it was intended to send her back to Manila, but at the last moment a telegram was received from home directing her to continue her voyage homeward, and she left for Barcelona on the 13th.

Mr. J. F. Lowder, Chairman of the Provisional Board of Directors of the proposed Japan Fire Insurance Company, has issued the following circular, dated 7th March, to those applying for shares:—“Sir.—I regret to have to inform you that by reason of the meagre support extended to the proposed Fire Insurance Company by the public, the Provisional Directors have not felt themselves justified in taking any further steps in the matter. It remains, therefore, to return to you the amount of your deposit, for which a cheque is enclosed.”

The *Nagasaki Daily News* says:—We must give the British government the fullest credit for the ability it displays in throwing dust on the eyes of the electorate in England. While the Conservative newspapers were exulting over the “smartness” shown by the Admiralty in purchasing all the available stock of Welsh coal in the East, thus immobilizing the foreign fleets, the *Rossia* was being supplied with 2,000 tons of coal at Singapore, and she is actually taking in coal at this port from the very godowns whence the British fleet replenish their bunkers.

Mr. J. J. Lillie, proprietor and editor of the *Siam Free Press*, was on the 11th March officially required to leave Siam within a week of that date and warned that in the event of his failing to do so he would be expelled. British protection has been withdrawn from Mr. Lillie whose incendiary writings against the Siamese Government are the cause of the proceedings taken against him.

It is reported from Peking that H.I.M. the Empress Dowager may possibly try this summer the new Railway carriage, specially constructed for her Majesty at the North-China Railway Works at Tongshan last year. In this case the Empress Dowager will pass through Tientsin, as her Majesty has recently announced her desire to pay a visit to the sea-coast.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Writing to the *New York Journal of Commerce*, Mr. T. R. Jernigan, recently Consul-General for the United States at Shanghai, says:—“The United States should take a more decided stand in Asiatic Affairs, and not allow Great Britain to fight alone the battle in favour of open ports and free commerce; the Government, on all proper lines, should emphasise its influence in behalf of liberal trade, of a fair showing for the Saxon, whether he comes from the British Isles or North America, and if necessary draw the sword to prevent lucrative and increasing demands for the products of American looms and fields from being diverted or monopolised by discriminating restrictions or coalitions.”

In consequence of the continued excess of imports over exports in Japan, the outflow of gold coins amounted to 4,450,000 yen during January, and for February the sum is stated by the Commissioners of Customs to have been 5,000,000 yen, making an aggregate total of 18,000,000 yen from October last. The above calculations are based upon the Customs returns, but the actual outflow must have reached some 20,000,000 yen up to February, as the amount sent abroad by other means is estimated at 2,000,000 yen. The value of the gold coins issued prior to February by the Government was 62,900,000 yen, so that nearly one-third of the whole issue has already been exported from Japan since the gold standard was adopted in October last.—*Nagasaki Press*.

Quarantine has been declared against Hongkong at most of the neighbouring ports, except in China and Japan, and in the latter country medical inspection has been established. The cause is the occurrence of a few cases of plague, though there is no epidemic. The *Straits Times* of the 16th March says:—We believe that the port of Hongkong is still issuing, or was issuing a few days ago, clean bills of health. The first action in the way of declaring quarantine against Hongkong seems to have been taken in Netherlands India. The Straits Government, finding that there was a quarantine against Hongkong in Netherlands India, then proceeded to make inquiries, which caused the Straits to impose quarantine, notwithstanding that Hongkong was still issuing clean bills of health. Concurrently with the P. & O., the Messageries Maritimes, the North German Lloyd, and the Japan line have issued instructions to their agents in Hongkong that no Chinese passengers are to be carried by their vessels during the outbreak of bubonic plague at Hongkong.

### RUSSIAN AND FRENCH DESIGNS IN CHINA.

The news contained in Reuter's message elsewhere published is important. It would seem that the Chinese Government are reluctant to part with their great arsenal Port Arthur, and as a compromise with the Muscovite demands they have offered to lease Talienshan to Russia and to allow the railway through Manchuria, provided that Port Arthur remains Chinese. This, we imagine, will hardly suit Russia unless accompanied by the stipulation that Port Arthur shall not be fortified. Such a condition would, of course, destroy the importance of the port, and would therefore be unacceptable to the Chinese. Probably a further compromise will be suggested, but in the end Russia will get her way. The Tsung-li Yamen are too weak to long resist the pressure of Russia, even if stiffened somewhat by Japan. Meantime the preparations for backing up her demands by force are going on by Russia. More men-of-war and more troops are being hurried out from Europe, and even now Russia is in a position to march a large army from Siberia into China. Neither the representations nor the wishes of China will avail to restrain the advance of these legions, and unless outside influence is brought to bear the Russian Minister at Peking will be sure to gain his way in the long run. Russia has apparently secured the neutrality of Great Britain by giving an assurance that any ports she may acquire shall be open to trade. Whether this pledge would prove inviolable or whether it is intended as a temporary sop to Cerberus we are unable to say; probably the latter. But like some other Muscovite pledges, it would no doubt serve its purpose.

The statement concerning French schemes in China is more interesting and perhaps more important. M. HANOTAUX is said to be negotiating with the Chinese Minister in Paris for the following points:—

- 1.—That China shall not cede any portion of the four provinces in the southern portion of the Empire, to wit: Kwangtung, Kwangsi, Yunnan, or Kweichow.
- 2.—That the railway from Lungchow shall be extended into the province of Yunnan.
- 3.—That a coaling station shall be granted to France at Luichow.

This is a pretty wide programme, and it is clear that the French Foreign Minister has completely divested himself of any shred of political modesty or bashfulness that may once have clung to him. He is not content with the preservation of the *status quo*, although quite recently—about the latter end of last month—he informed Sir EDWARD MONSON that France had not the slightest intention of imitating Germany by seizing a naval base in China. France now demands a coaling station at Luichow. It would seem that at the very time this statement was made French men-of-war were surveying the coast near Hainan and Pak-hoi, and had discovered a suitable place for the coveted naval base. Kwongchau Bay is admirably adapted for such a purpose, but as it is close to Tonkin it cannot be required except for ulterior aggressive purposes. Its possession would be the preliminary step towards the acquisition of the whole of the Lienchau peninsula, in order to control the trade of the West River, and this is foreshadowed by the stipulation M. HANOTAUX is endeavouring to wring from China that no portion of the four southern provinces shall be ceded to any Power—presumably other than her-

self. For the other matter, the prolongation of the railway from Lungchow into Yunnan, the French Government have as much right to negotiate as we had to obtain the right to continue the Burmah railways into Yunnan. We have no objection to fair competition, but we shall certainly oppose the cession of exclusive rights to another Power, especially when that Power adopts the selfish and silly policy of closing every port by means of hostile tariffs. If France endeavours to insist upon the cession of a great strategic port in Kwangtung to herself and makes a further condition that no other Power is to have a similar concession, Great Britain will be obliged to oppose such a condition *in toto*. On the other hand the British Government would not be averse to a convention guaranteeing the integrity of the whole of South and Central China. That would be only consistent with her policy as recently declared by Lord SALISBURY.

The impossibility, however, of maintaining an unselfish and non-aggressive policy grows daily more difficult. So many demands are being made by various Powers, and so many new developments are taking place, that a most watchful attitude will be necessary. France has been the last to speak of those who were suspected to meditate designs on the integrity of China, and she has, after disclaiming such intentions, opened her mouth widest of them all. And in order to enforce her demands she is sending out a considerable naval force to reinforce her Squadron in these waters. The cruiser *Duguay Trouin* has arrived at Manila *en route*, and the men-of-war *Vauban*, *Brieux*, *Jean Bart*, and others are within a short steaming distance of China. On their arrival we may expect further developments. Russia and France are evidently prepared to act together, and they intend to have a full set off to the German acquisition of Kiaochau. The British Government have no objection, or have waived it, to the Russian lease of Port Arthur, but they will most assuredly have something to say to the demands of France in the South. In seeking to prevent any foreign acquisitions in the four southern provinces, France has given England the cue. The integrity of that territory should be maintained, and England may perhaps not be unwilling to assist China to repel aggression.

### RAILWAY PROSPECTS IN YUNNAN.

Mr. JOHN FOSTER FRASER, one of the round-the-world cyclists, gave an address to the Asiatic Society of Japan, at Tokyo, on the 2nd March, his subject being his recent journey through Burmah and China. A portion of the address referred to the prospects of a railway from Burmah through Yunnan, a subject on which Mr. FRASER also has a paper in the February number of the *Contemporary Review*. He dwells on the difficulties of the project, owing to the mountainous character of the country to be traversed. "What engineers cannot do," he says, "it would be dangerous to guess, but a railway over or through these hills would be the most herculean task ever attempted." Not more herculean than the construction of a railway over the Rocky Mountains, we should imagine, yet the latter was accomplished years ago and proved so successful from a commercial point of view that other lines have since been constructed to share in the traffic. As regards the proposed Yunnan railway, there can be no doubt as to the feasibility of its construction; the sole question is whether there is sufficient traffic, actual or prospective, to make

it pay. The caravan routes are extensively used, and with the improved facilities offered by a railway, the traffic would increase considerably. Mr. FRASER, however, is emphatically of opinion that the increase would not be sufficient to make a railway pay. "I disagree," he says in his *Contemporary* article, "with the generally accepted statement that trade always follows the railway line. Trade would, of course, be augmented by the building of a line, but Yunnan is probably the poorest of all the eighteen provinces, and the population is thin and scattered and wretched. Traders should once and for all abandon the hope that Yunnan is a rich mine, only waiting to be tapped." The commercial possibilities of the proposed line, however, is a subject on which we should like to have more expert opinion than that of a cycling tourist, whose observation is confined to what he sees along his route. In the meantime the line to Kunlong Ferry is being pushed on and a year or two will see its completion. The iron horse will then have reached the Chinese frontier and that it will ultimately penetrate into Yunnan we entertain no doubt. If a great trunk line is not at once constructed, small branches will be made in one direction and another until at last the need for the trunk line will make itself felt. Sir ERNEST SATOW, who presided at Mr. FRASER's Tokyo lecture, spoke of the project as "that much talked of but probably never to be accomplished railway between Burmah and Yunnan." Similar doubts have been entertained regarding all great engineering projects, the Suez Canal, for instance, and the American transcontinental railway, but the projects make headway notwithstanding the sneers of the doubtful. As a purely commercial enterprise it would probably be a long time before a railway across Yunnan would be undertaken, but it is very possible that the execution of the project may be hastened for political reasons, and when once the line is made it will not be long before it begins to attract traffic. Opened up by railways Yunnan may cease to be one of the poorest of the eighteen provinces, and its population, instead of being "thin and scattered and wretched," become prosperous and contented.

### THE NAVY LEAGUE AND THE CHINESE CUSTOMS IN HONGKONG.

In the letter from the Hongkong branch of the Navy League to the parent Association on the Defences of Hongkong it is suggested that the cession by China to Great Britain of the islands to the south of Hongkong "would enable the Chinese Custom House at Hongkong to be done away with." It is much to be regretted that a useful body like the Navy League should concern itself with political matters entirely outside its sphere. It is still more to be regretted that it should allow itself to fall into misrepresentation. "It is idle," the letter says, "to blink the facts that the maintenance of a Chinese Custom House in the main street of Victoria, and the presence at all times of armed launches flying the dragon flag at the principal landing place in the city awaiting the orders of the Commissioner of Chinese Customs (an Englishman), give rise to serious misconceptions in the native mind and entail grave loss of prestige. The only plea—'convenience'—for this extraordinary anomaly might, the Hongkong members of the League think, equally be

"advanced as a justification for a French Custom House at London Bridge." But there is no Chinese Custom House in the main Street of Victoria, as this extract would lead home readers to suppose. It is true there is an agency of the Chinese Customs, under the Control of a Commissioner, but the agency has no executive power within the confines of the colony. As to the argument that a French Custom House might as well be established at London Bridge, there is no reason in the world why an agency of the French Customs similar to the agency of the Chinese Customs in Hongkong should not be established at London Bridge if the French Customs so elected. The Chinese Customs have an agency in London as well as in Hongkong and any other Power would have an equal right to establish similar agencies. There is nothing strange or anomalous about the business. In Canada passengers for the United States may if they choose have their luggage examined by United States Customs officers on the Canadian side of the frontier; and the United States and Canada are not given to tolerating any infringement of their respective jurisdictions.

The inaccuracy of the representations made on this subject in the letter of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League is surpassed by their extraordinary imprudence. The rectification of the frontier is required for defensive purposes, not for the facilitation of smuggling. The latter plea is calculated to prejudice the proposal in the eyes of the Chinese Government, and although the Chinese Government does not count for much and has to comply with almost any and every demand made upon it, however oppressive or inequitable, it is undesirable to excite its suspicions unnecessarily. Great Britain desires to act by China in a perfectly clean-handed manner, and the views of the Navy League on the question of smuggling will find no countenance on the part of our own Government. It was agreed by the Chefoo Convention that a joint Commission should be appointed "in order to the establishment of some system that shall enable the Chinese Government to protect its revenue without prejudice to the interests of the colony" of Hongkong. That Commission sat, a long time after the signing of the Convention, and the system thereupon established, though no doubt susceptible to improvement in its details, has on the whole been mutually advantageous. If the colony's frontiers are extended the facilities for smuggling will be proportionately increased, and instead of the extension involving the destruction of the preventive system now in force, as the Navy League assumes, it would rather be an argument for strengthening it. If the extension takes place, as we all hope it will, we may take it for granted that the agreement will contain terms providing against the use of the new territory as a basis for smuggling into China. The effrontery of going to China and asking her to concede territory for the express purpose of facilitating the defrauding of her revenue would be too preposterous.

The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, left last Saturday by the P. & O. steamer *Japan* for England, on leave. The following appointments, consequent on Mr. Lockhart's departure, are notified in the Gazette.—Hon. T. Sercombe Smith to be Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. A. M. Thomson to be Acting Colonial Treasurer and Acting Collector of Stamp Revenue in addition to his duties as Postmaster-General, and Mr. A. W. Brewin to be Acting Registrar-General in addition to his duties as Inspector of Schools.

#### FOREIGN PORTS IN CHINA AND THE PROTECTION OF CHINA'S REVENUE.

The recent discussion on the privileges granted to the Chinese Customs in the British colony of Hongkong suggests the question whether in the colonies or trading stations which other Powers are establishing on the coast of China similar privileges will be granted. Germany has established herself at Kiaochau, which is to be made a free port like Hongkong. Russia has declared that any harbours she may acquire—Port Arthur and Taliewan to wit—shall be free ports; and if France acquires Kwongchauwan she will probably follow the same course. Japan may possibly remain at Weihaiwei, and, if so, that port will also be opened to trade. Demands for harbours may likewise come in from other Powers. If all the places above enumerated and the others that may be acquired hereafter are to be used as smuggling stations China will have some legitimate ground of complaint. Theoretically of course it is the duty of each Power to protect its own revenue, and its neighbours cannot as a matter of right be called upon to assist it in attaining that end. When, however, one Power seizes or otherwise acquires a port in the dominions of another and establishes a trading station there unusual conditions are set up which may be held to justify unusual methods of dealing with them. For many years it was held that it was China's duty to protect her own revenue in respect of the trade from Hongkong to China, but the character of the measures she took for effecting that object led to grave and in part well founded complaint on the part of this colony, for under native administration the preventive service was not honestly conducted. Ultimately a compromise was arrived at by which the service was placed under the control of the Foreign branch of the Customs Service, and the system then established has worked with almost perfect smoothness, leaving no ground for serious complaint on either side, though the Hongkong branch of the Navy League—a non-political body which has no right to concern itself with such questions—seems to think there are sentimental objections to the arrangement that would justify its abrogation. Such abrogation would lead to a revival of smuggling and of the objectionable methods formerly adopted by the Native Customs for checking it.

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, the Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League, in his letter published in our columns a few days ago, says he has a difficulty in ascertaining how anything contained in his letter to the Head Office could have been supposed to constitute a plea in favour of the facilitation of smuggling. We do not think the difficulty will be found insuperable. If it were proposed to do away with the Police Force, nothing being suggested to take its place, the suggestion would rightly be considered as a plea for the facilitation of crime. A proposal to do away with all sanitary regulations might equally be construed as a plea for facilitating the propagation of disease. So also must a proposal to do away with the Chinese preventive service be construed as a plea for the facilitation of smuggling. Apparently it did not present itself in that light to Mr. POLLOCK and the Committee of the local branch of the Navy League when the letter was penned, but it is the only construction to be placed upon the written words.

Mr. POLLOCK says all that was intended was to point out that, from a political point of view, the maintenance and working of the Chinese Customs Service here, as at present organised, is calculated to give rise to misconceptions in the Chinese mind and to entail loss of national prestige to us. As a matter of fact the present system does not entail anything like the loss of prestige that was entailed by the system it displaced, nor indeed any loss of prestige at all. The Foreign branch of the Chinese Customs Service is looked upon by the Chinese people as a foreign institution, and at the office in Queen's Road there is no display of Chinese national insignia.

Other Powers that are establishing ports in China, if they should be inclined to co-operate at all with the Chinese Government for the prevention of frauds upon the revenue, will no doubt take stock of the experience of Hongkong in that matter. China in making a cession or lease of territory may seek to make such co-operation one of the conditions, and the Power to which the cession or lease is made could hardly in common fairness refuse the condition. In the absence of such co-operation, however, the ports would be liable to the annoyance that Hongkong experienced in former years of having their approaches blockaded by Customs cruisers and all native craft subjected to an irksome search immediately they entered Chinese waters. If, on the other hand, it should be decided to co-operate with the Chinese the further question would arise as to the form that co-operation should take. China wished originally to establish a Consulate in Hongkong, but that demand was very properly rejected, and other Powers establishing ports on the Chinese coast will, if they are wise, also decline to accede to any such demand. The establishment of Chinese consulates in ports adjacent to China would mean the establishment of an *imperium in imperio* that would be destructive to good government. Even at such a distance as Singapore the existence of a Chinese consulate has not been unattended with abuse. We may take it, therefore, that Chinese consulates will not be allowed in the Russian, German, and French ports in China. The alternative of placing the neighbouring Customs stations under the control of the Foreign branch of the Chinese Customs Service is, as the experience of Hongkong has shown, free from serious objection, and reasonable facilities may be afforded to the Service without fear of abuse. If, however, all recognition of the Chinese Service be refused, on grounds similar to those advanced by Mr. POLLOCK, namely, loss of national prestige, the Government—Russian, French or German, as the case may be—may itself undertake the collection and publication of statistics of the imports and exports, and from a comparison of these statistics with their own the Chinese Customs would be able to ascertain whether smuggling was going on and to frame their own measures to cope with it. It is possible, indeed, that such statistics will be collected and published independently of any other arrangement that may be made with the Chinese Government. In Hongkong the collection of trade returns upon any compulsory system has been strongly objected to by the majority of the mercantile community, and especially by the German section, and has not been enforced, but we are inclined to think that in the case of Kiaochau the German Government will desire to have full information as to the character and extent of the trade that may be established there.

### MEDICAL INSPECTION VERSUS QUARANTINE.

Twelve months ago the Secretary of State issued a circular despatch transmitting a copy of the regulations made by the Local Government Board for dealing with cholera, yellow fever, and plague in the United Kingdom, and stating that the Local Government Board had drawn his attention to the fact that these regulations shewed that a wide divergence existed between the practice as regards quarantine followed in certain colonies and the principles which the Board regarded as suitable for effective dealing with the diseases referred to, with a view to preventing their spread, both on land and water. The regulations in question provide for systematic medical inspection, quarantine being reduced to such a fine point that it may practically be said to be abolished. The question whether a system of medical inspection should be established in Hongkong was referred by the Government to the Chamber of Commerce and by the Chamber to a special Committee representative of the shipping interests. The decision of that Committee was adverse to medical inspection. At present plague is present in the colony to a slight extent, and although the cases occurring are extremely few neighbouring ports have taken alarm, and are imposing quarantine against us. Whether a system of medical inspection, had such been in force, would have saved the colony from the present visitation, with its consequent injury to commercial interests by the imposition of quarantine, it would be rash to say, but there is some reason to believe that such might have been the case. In a letter addressed by the shipping firms to the Chamber of Commerce protesting against the imposition of quarantine at Singapore the signatories say:—"The total number of cases up to the 12th February amounted only to 16. For the week ending 19th February 9 cases were recorded, then for the week ending 26th February the total jumped to 46, and it may be assumed it was on account of this increase that the Straits Government became alarmed. The reason, however, for this sudden augmentation is not far to seek. The Races occurred during the week in question, when it will be remembered that unusually large numbers of Chinese poured to the colony from Canton." Here, then, we have an admission that the plague did not originate in the colony, but was introduced, and in view of the grave injury to the trade of the port, as well as of the danger to the public health, prudence would seem to dictate the desirability of taking steps to prevent the introduction of the disease, even if it involved some considerable inconvenience and cost. We believe, however, that the possible inconvenience has been considerably magnified by the fears of those whose interests might be affected.

The shipping firms in their letter to the Chamber say it is to be feared that sporadic cases of plague will continue to occur at this season of the year, for at least some time to come, and the question arises whether the infliction of quarantine on arrivals from the colony is to be of annual recurrence. That is an unpleasant prospect truly, but it is to be feared it must be contemplated as possible if not indeed highly probable. Medical inspection would reduce if not remove the danger, but medical inspection the shipping community do not wish to have. In their letter to the Chamber they ask that the Acting Governor should be requested as a matter of principle—(the word is italicised in the original)—to protest

vigorously "against any quarantine restrictions being imposed at Singapore on arrivals from this colony now and hereafter, unless, of course, there should be ample reason for it." Since the signatories lay such stress on principle it would have been convenient if they had defined what principle they themselves hold. They have disavowed the principle of the British regulations, and from the above extract it would appear that they approve of the imposition of quarantine under certain conditions, but what those conditions are they do not state. If the old and semi-barbarous system of quarantine is to be maintained, and every colony to be allowed to frame its own regulations on principles evolved out of its own inner consciousness, and regardless of scientific opinion, the respective colonies must be left to decide for themselves when quarantine is to be imposed; in the absence of any uniform and generally accepted principle it is not to be expected that one colony would consent to be dictated to by another; it is therefore not within the province of Hongkong to dictate to Singapore when quarantine shall be imposed, any more than it is within the province of Singapore to dictate to Hongkong. And if the principle of quarantine be admitted—and the Hongkong shipping community does admit it—no impartial judge could hold that Singapore was without warrant for the course that has been adopted. If quarantine is to be enforced at all it is desirable that it should be enforced at the first moment danger is recognised, and the occurrence of forty-six cases of plague in Hongkong in one week was reasonably calculated to cause alarm in neighbouring ports, lest it should mark the commencement of an epidemic that might become virulent; the circumstances, indeed, caused some alarm in Hongkong itself. Seeing, however, that the reason for alarm has disappeared with the marked diminution in the number of cases, we hope the Straits Government will recognise the expediency of promptly removing the quarantine that has been imposed. For our own part, we think Singapore would protect itself more effectively by the adoption of the system of medical inspection in force in Great Britain, but since Hongkong has declined to adopt that system it hardly lies with Hongkong to reproach its neighbour for not doing so. Further experience of the injurious effects of quarantine and more careful consideration of the principle of medical inspection may perhaps lead to a revision of the opinion expressed by the shipping community last year upon the subject. If Hongkong adopted regulations analogous to those in force in the United Kingdom the Straits Settlements might be led to follow her example, instead of setting the example to other ports, as she now does, of imposing quarantine against Hongkong whenever a scare arises.

Inspector Macdonald made a successful raid on base coiners late on Monday night. He entered 161, Praya West and caught two men and one woman with several counterfeit dollars and smaller coins and also a number of moulds and tools in their possession. On Tuesday the woman explained to the Magistrate that she did not know how the bad coins got there, but she had a purse containing good coins. One of the men said he received some bad coins from ships in the harbour in payment for goods he had sold, while the other man rather complainingly remarked that the base coins were the only remains of money he brought recently from Canton. Commander Hastings placed no faith in any one of these stories and fined the woman \$150 or three months' imprisonment and the two men \$50 each or two months' imprisonment.

[March 26, 1898.]

### SUPREME COURT.

18th March.

#### CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

#### BOLTED.

Li Yi Hing, charged with offering a bribe of \$30.60 to W. S. Triscom, overseer on the Praya Reclamation works, did not answer to his name when called, and the sum of \$1,000, which had been deposited as bail, was ordered to be forfeited. A warrant for the man's apprehension was issued.

Seven Chinamen were charged with the robbery, with violence, of \$107 and a considerable quantity of jewellery and other articles from a householder at Mongkok. The first and fourth prisoners pleaded guilty to all the counts.

Hon. W. M. Goodman, Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys, Crown Solicitor), prosecuted.

The five men who pleaded not guilty were tried by the following jury—Messrs. G. W. Binder, C. A. Plumb, E. A. Hill, A. F. Osmond, A. D. Death, W. M. Watson, and G. Sequeira.

On the 7th March six men entered the prosecutor's house and tied up the inmates, after threatening them with a revolver and knives. They then ransacked the place of all the valuables they could find and cleared off. Fortunately, however, the prisoners were arrested and on all of them was found some of the stolen property.

Two of the prisoners who denied their guilt were found guilty on all four counts and the remaining three were convicted of being in unlawful possession of stolen property.

His Lordship, in passing sentence, said that ruffians who came up from Canton must learn that they could not commit such robberies in this colony; at any rate, they must learn that whenever the crime was brought home to them they would be severely punished. His Lordship then passed sentence of eight years' imprisonment with hard labour on one prisoner, seven years on a second, six on two others, and two years on the three convicted of receiving the property.

#### UNLAWFUL WOUNDING.

Pedro Billiteis pleaded guilty to unlawfully wounding a man in Bridges Street by stabbing him.

The prisoner was sent to gaol for six months with hard labour.

#### A DISHONEST SERVANT.

Lam On pleaded guilty to stealing a ring belonging to his master, Lieutenant Randall, R.E. The prisoner was sent to gaol for eight months with hard labour.

21st March.

#### KEEPING HIS LORDSHIP WAITING.

It was about ten past ten when His Lordship, who had been waiting in his room, entered the court, and on taking his seat he enquired: What is the cause of the Court being late?

The Registrar:—I do not know, my Lord. We have been waiting for your Lordship.

His Lordship:—Waiting for me? I am always ready to come on when the clock strikes.

Mr. Robinson:—apologised for detaining the Court, as he found at the last moment that he had some other business to attend to.

His Lordship said the custom there had been for the Chief Justice to wait until he is told to enter the Court.

The Registrar—I must apologise. I did not know Your Lordship was waiting for Mr. Robinson.

The Attorney-General—I have been here since ten o'clock.

His Lordship intimated that he was always prepared to sit when the clock strikes.

#### ALLEGED FRAUD.

John Mahomed, a tailor, was charged with obtaining money by false pretences.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. Wm. Goodman), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. E. Robinson defended the prisoner, who pleaded not guilty.

The following gentlemen composed the jury:—Messrs. J. M. Gutteriez, L. M. J. Alvares, M. de Silva, Germaraes, J. W. Osborne, G. C. Fullerton, J. Barton, and R. Hill

The Attorney-General said it was alleged by the prosecution that the prisoner obtained the prosecutor's bank pass book and by forging his signature obtained \$260 from the National Bank of China, Limited.

The case was concluded on the 22nd, when the prisoner, was found guilty and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour.

19th March.

#### IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

##### CHENG SING TONG v. HO FUNG TING.

The plaintiff sought to recover \$1,000 from Ho Teng Fung, alias Ho Ting Kwai, alias Tai Ka Ping. The money was alleged to be due on a promissory note for \$1,200, but the amount was reduced in order to bring the case in the summary jurisdiction of the court.

Mr. J. F. Reece appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens), for the defendant.

The evidence for the plaintiff showed that the promissory note was made in San Francisco in 1893. For some time past the plaintiff and defendant had resided in Canton, and neither had permanent residence or business in Hongkong.

Mr. Francis contended that the Court had no jurisdiction to try the case and in support of his argument quoted the preamble of Ordinance 2 of 1851 at follows.—Whereas from the vicinity of the colony of Hongkong to the dominions of the Emperor of China, it is of frequent occurrence that Chinese subjects visiting the said colony for a limited time and for the purposes of trade, plead and cause each to be arrested for causes of action arising within the said dominions; and whereas such proceedings are not only inconvenient from the difficulty of procuring proper evidence and for other reasons, but are frequently resorted to for the purpose of extortion, and likewise tend to the injury of traffic within the said Colony: neither the Supreme nor any other Court within the colony aforesaid shall have or exercise jurisdiction in any civil proceeding as between persons born within the dominions of the Emperor of China where the cause of action has originated out of the said colony, unless the defendant has been a resident therein for six consecutive months prior to the time of commencing any action, suit, or proceeding grounded on such cause of action." In this case, Mr. Francis submitted, the parties had not been resident in the colony for six months and the plaintiff, knowing the defendant to be here, had come down for the sole purpose of prosecuting this suit. In certain cases the Court did have jurisdiction, as Ordinance 10 of 1871 laid down that jurisdiction could be exercised "provided only it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the presiding judge in such court that such jurisdiction may be exercised without the mischief contemplated by such Ordinance." Counsel submitted that such mischief would be caused if this case were allowed to proceed. Plaintiff had made no application for redress in the Chinese courts, and he had come down here, caused defendant to be arrested, forced him to give security, and had necessarily detained him in the colony. This was the very mischief the Ordinance was framed to prevent, and counsel therefore asked his Lordship to rule that jurisdiction should not be exercised.

Mr. Reece contended that the preamble of Ordinance 2 of 1851 referred only to merchants and was for the purpose of protecting the trade of the colony, but neither the plaintiff or the defendant had visited the colony for the purpose of trade. The cause of the action arose in San Francisco and not in the dominion of the Emperor of China, and for the just and proper hearing of the case, it should be tried in Hongkong and not in China. There was no competent tribunal in China, and his Lordship well knew that litigants from China were very much more likely to obtain justice in this colony than in China.

His Lordship, without calling upon Mr. Francis to reply, gave judgment. He ruled that the defendant was here for the purpose of trade. Ogilvie's dictionary gave various meanings of the word "trade," and he thought that in this case they should take it as referring to the occupation of a person or persons who might occasionally visit the colony. It was in evidence that defendant visited the colony for the purposes of his business as an actor, and for the purpose of performing in a company of actors, and he thought the case fell within the terms of the word there relating to trade and relating to traffic. In regard to the action itself, the cause had arisen out of the colony, and it was quite clear from the enacting words of the Ordinance that the Court would be bound to dismiss the suit. Referring to the amending Ordinance No. 10 of 1871, his Lordship thought the plaintiff had not satisfied the Court that the mischief did not fall within the mischief aimed at by Ordinance 2 of 1851. He thought the case did fall within the mischief. It had been mentioned that in the dominions of the Emperor of China there were no efficient courts of jurisdiction. Her Majesty's courts in this colony had not been erected for the purpose of mitigating that defect, but for the trial of cases clearly coming within the jurisdiction of the court. His Lordship did not think it was ever intended that parties should come from the dominions of the Emperor of China to these courts solely for the purpose of obtaining legal proceedings against each other. He dismissed the suit with costs.

22nd March.  
IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

##### LI SHU v. TSOI HEUNG PO AND ANOTHER.

In this case the plaintiff sought to recover \$5,000, money lent to the defendants on a promissory note.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Hastings), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. W. V. Drummond and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Ewens) for the defendants.

The case was commenced in January last and has occupied his Lordship during ten days.

His Lordship delivered the following judgment:

This suit was brought in the Original Jurisdiction to recover \$5,000 for money lent to two defendants. Judgment was given in default of appearance against the second defendant and the question of the liability of the Tsoi Heung Po was by consent referred to me for trial. When the case came on for hearing on 17th January, 1898, Mr. Robinson, who during the earlier part of the case appeared alone for the defendant, raised the preliminary objection that the fact that judgment had already been given against the second defendant was a bar to further proceedings against Tsoi Heung Po. However, after hearing counsel on both sides, I overruled the objection, and decided that the case should proceed against Tsoi Heung Po. During the course of the trial, which lasted nearly ten days, Mr. Drummond joined Mr. Robinson for the defence. Before proceeding to discuss the stories put forward on behalf of the plaintiff and defendant I may mention that I intend to follow the excellent example set by the opposing counsel on the last day of the trial. That is, I shall avoid any minute examination of the evidence, which was very voluminous, and shall endeavour to form an opinion on a general review of the statements made by the various witnesses. I am the more inclined to take this course as it appears to me that perjury and forgery were rife, certainly on one side and perhaps on both, and that the real question for me to decide is whose account contains the lesser amount of falsehood. It appears that in the early part of 1896 the then existing Wai Sing lottery farm, the head quarters of which were in Canton, came to an end and certain speculators in Canton and Hongkong determined to try and obtain another grant of the farm from the Chinese authorities, for which purpose of course they would have to put up very considerable sums of money. Accordingly some arrangement was come to between the authorities and certain persons representing two tongs named the Man

On Tong and Fu Shun Tong. Shortly after, for reasons of their own, these two tongs agreed to separate, insomuch that each should retain a half share in the concern, but the two together should remain as one under the name of Kung Ki. For the purposes of this judgment we need not concern ourselves with the partners in the Man On Tong, but with reference to the Fu Shun Tong the plaintiff's case is that the defendant and Tsoi Cheung were the sole partners. As time went on the Chinese authorities began to press the farmers for more money, and there is no doubt that towards the end of 1896, or certainly early in 1897, the members of the syndicate found themselves in great difficulties, and as a matter of fact the grant was cancelled a short time after, and the money already deposited was confiscated by the authorities. Under these circumstances the plaintiff states that on the introduction of Tsoi Cheung, and at the request of the defendant, he agreed to advance \$5,000 to defendant as a partner in the Fu Shun Tong, but that as he had not the money with him at the time, and the defendant wanted to return to Canton, it was agreed that the defendant should send one Chau Tai Shang down to Hongkong to receive the money. In accordance with this arrangement Chau Tai Shang came down on two separate occasions and received the sums of \$3,000 and \$2,000 on February 26 and March 1, 1897, and in return gave the plaintiff the two promissory notes sued on (exhibits A and B). The plaintiff also states that these were not his only loan transactions with defendant, for that in January, 1897, he had already received sums of Tls. 200, Tls. 200, \$3,000 and \$2,000 in repayment of loans made by him to the defendant. There were also other money dealings which I need not mention here. The plaintiff is supported in his story by Tsoi Cheung, who admits that he was a partner in the Fu Shun Tong and has, as I have already mentioned, allowed judgment to go against him. Tsoi Cheung states that defendant was also a partner in the Fu Shun, and as such interested in the lottery farm, and he supports the plaintiff in his evidence as to the loan, the arrangements for which were made in his presence. He also identifies the chops on exhibits A and B as being the chops of the Fu Shun Tong and he states that the defendant affixed the chop on exhibit B in his (the witness's) presence. He also recognizes the chop on two other documents (exhibits C & D) and swears that he saw defendant sign both. He denies that the defendant ever lent money to the plaintiff or to the farm; but with regard to this latter point I think he is mistaken, for two documents (exhibits P & S) were shewn to him and he admitted that the signature and chop were genuine. Chau Tai Shang (the man who is alleged to have got the money from the plaintiff and handed it to the defendant), was also called as a witness and bore out the plaintiff's story as to the loan, and further says that he handed the money himself to the defendant. Ho Wy son, who was largely interested in the farm, was another witness. He states that defendant was a partner in the Fu Shun Tong, and in support of that refers to document, exhibit D, which he says he saw the defendant sign and which signature purports to be his signature as a partner in the Fu Shun Tong, along with Tsoi Cheung. A man named Li Tsat was also called to prove that he had lent money to defendant and in return had received a document (exhibit R) which had similar chops and a similar character to those on the promissory notes sued on (exhibits A and B). That very briefly is the plaintiff's case. The defendant on the other hand absolutely denies that the plaintiff ever lent money to him and states on the other hand that he (the defendant) lent money to the plaintiff, and that the sums of \$3,000 and \$2,000 alleged to have been sent to him in Canton by the plaintiff were really only repayments of loans by defendant to plaintiff, and points out entries in his books in support. He further denies that he was ever a partner in the Fu Shun Tong but was only a manager, and that his connection with the farm was that of official secretary merely, and of course he denies his signature to exhibit D. He goes on further to explain that the Fu Shun Tong had two sets of chops, one what was called the inner counter and one for the outer counter, and that only the inner counter chops were used for

promissory notes given as security for money borrowed by the Fu Shun Tong, that the forms for these promissory notes were taken from two books of counterfoils produced (exhibits U and V1), that those counterfoils had a character "Wong" on the edge and a number which ought to correspond with the body of the note. He also stated that exhibits U and U1, showed that the Fu Shun Tong had only issued 23 promissory notes. On being shewn exhibits A and B he at once declared them to be forgeries, inasmuch as the number on them were above 23 and the character was "chi" not "wong," and the chops were outer counter chops and not inner counter chops. He also denied the genuineness of the note produced by Li Tsat (exhibit R) for the same reasons. A number of other promissory notes were shewn to him which he declared to be genuine. These all bore the inner counter chops and agreed in number and character with the counterfoils (exhibit U and U1). He also explained that the Tls. 300 referred to by Li Tsat was not a loan to the Fu Shun Tong but a payment on account to that firm for a lottery station, and produced an entry in the Fu Shun Tong book to that effect. In cross-examination he denied that he was a partner in the Wing U I firm, but from a letter (exhibit A A); which he admitted having written, I am doubtful about this. In other parts of his cross-examination also his evidence was somewhat shaken. A man named Pat Chong Cho is then called who was employed at the Wing U I and he gave evidence that the sums of \$3,000 and \$2,000 alleged to have been taken by Chan Tai Shang from the plaintiff to the defendant at the Fu Shun Tong were really taken by him to the Wing U I. This evidence is to support one of the lines of defence, viz., that the loan was to the Wing U I and not to the Fu Shun Tong. Tsoi Hon Shing, the accountant of the Fu Shun Tong, was called to deny the authenticity of the notes sued on, and also to state that he gave the outer counter chops to Tso Cheung, who wanted to fabricate promissory notes to assist the syndicate in their endeavours to get back the money deposited with the Chinese authorities. This evidence was also to support the suggestion of the defence that exhibits A, B, and R, which were alleged to be chopped with the outer counter chops, were the handiwork of Tso Cheung. The above is the evidence for the defence in outline. The first question then as it seems to me is, are exhibits A, B, and R, genuine promissory notes given by the Fu Shun as described, or are they forgeries, whether made by Tso Cheung or not? If they are genuine then comes the question, were they given by the defendant as a partner in the Fu Shun Tong? If they are forgeries this last question does not arise. The plaintiff of course contends that the promissory notes, chopped with the inner counter chop are forgeries and were made for the purposes of this suit. In deciding this question it is well to look at the evidence produced on both sides. The plaintiff and Chan Tai Shang and Tso Cheung support each other, but I must say that Tso Cheung in the witness box is a very unsatisfactory witness and did not impress me favourably. With reference to Ho Wy son, another consideration comes in. This witness is a British subject and a solicitor practising in the courts of this colony and as such in an ordinary way his evidence would be entitled to great weight, but unfortunately he has admitted that in a matter closely connected with the present case and to suit his ends he (a British subject) in a written communication to the Colonial Secretary of this colony, with the avowed intention of deceiving that official and Her Majesty's Consul at Canton, did not hesitate to stoop to falsehood and deceit. The witness, I am glad to say, admitted his error and the fact that no respectable solicitor would have acted as he had done, and expressed his regret for his conduct. However that may be, the fact still remains that such conduct must render it necessary to view any evidence that he has given with suspicion. The defendant's case as it seems to me rests primarily upon the question as to whether all promissory notes issued by the Fu Shun Tong ought to bear the inner counter chops and correspond with the counter foils U and U1. After careful consideration of the evidence I am of opinion that I cannot accept the plaintiff's promissory notes as genuine and in

fact I do not think they are. This of course disposes of the question of the defendant being a partner in the Fu Shun Tong or not. There will therefore be judgment for the defendant, with costs.

#### HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Tuesday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held in the office. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, (Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police). Mr. N. J. Ede, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Brewin (Acting Registrar-General).

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, in the absence of Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary), read the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were confirmed.

#### PLAQUE IN BOMBAY.

From a report showing the progress of the plague in Bombay from 1st to 15th February it appeared that 2,615 cases were reported and 2,419 deaths, being a daily average of 174 $\frac{1}{2}$  cases reported and 166 $\frac{1}{2}$  deaths.

#### FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

The Medical Officer of Health and Mr. C. Vivian Ladds, the committee re the enforcement of bye-laws 6 and 7 schedule A of ordinance 17 of 1887, reported as follows to the Secretary of the Board on March 16th:—"We have the honour to report for the information of the Sanitary Board that there has been no decrease in the number of cases of foot and mouth disease which have been imported during the last week. In fact the position is generally the same as when we reported on the 9th inst."

On 23rd March they reported:—"We have the honour to report for the information of the Sanitary Board that cases of foot and mouth disease still continue to come in from the mainland, but that the numbers are somewhat less than on our last report."

#### THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE AMONGST CATTLE.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon (Mr. Vivian Ladds), writing on March 12th as to the undesirability of having large cattle sheds in close proximity to each other, said:—"Sir—I have the honour to recommend that the following matters be brought under the consideration of the Sanitary Board.

Owing to the common occurrence of outbreaks of infectious and contagious disease amongst cattle upon the mainland I am of opinion that a warning notice should be issued to all cow-keepers and dairymen in the colony, which might be worded somewhat as follows:—

"In view of the frequent outbreaks of cattle disease which occur all over the Kwang Tung province, and elsewhere upon the mainland, the owners of dairy cattle in the colony of Hongkong are advised by the Sanitary Board to consider the wisdom of dividing their herds as much as possible, say into lots of 20 or 30, rather than to tend to gather them together into large numbers, which at present seems to be the general custom.

Hence in the event of infectious or contagious disease breaking out at a dairy farm or cowshed the matter could be more easily dealt with and the animals better isolated when in small numbers than in large ones, apart from the loss which might be sustained by owners should disease break out on premises where all their available animals were housed together."

The following minutes were attached:—

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH submitted:—"Advice given is sound and I think practical, but to those who have already a number of cowsheds adjoining each other the cost of separating them will, I am afraid, prevent its being done. However, that is clearly a matter which the owners of the cattle must determine for themselves."

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—"The proposal seems a good one."

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—"I would write to the dairyowners instead of issuing a notice."

The CHAIRMAN asked if any gentleman wished to make any remarks on this subject. It would be seen that the Captain Superintendent of Police suggested that the dairy owners should be written to on the matter.

March 26, 1898.

Mr. EDE—I think that would do to begin with.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. EDE, it was decided that the dairy owners be written to.

#### THE FINAL DISPOSAL OF CITY REFUSE.

On 23rd December Chau Pui, scavenging contractor, petitioned the Sanitary Board that according to clause 18 of his contract he had until the end of November removed the refuse two miles outside the waters of the colony and deposited it on shore and by sifting the finer portion of the refuse his boatmen made about \$300 dollars a month. The Commissioner of Chinese customs had refused to allow this refuse to be sifted, and petitioner had consequently to suffer a loss of \$300 per month. He applied to the Board to provide a place within British territory whereon to burn and sift refuse, and recommended a piece of vacant ground at Ma Tan Wai.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, in his minute, stated that petitioner's statement that he had hitherto complied with clause 18 of his contract was not true, and mentioned that besides depositing the rubbish two miles outside the boundaries of the colony he was also required to place it not less than ten feet above high water mark, and this he had not complied with.

The matter has been fully considered by the Board, and amongst the papers attached was a report by Mr. Crook, Sanitary Surveyor, on refuse destructors, in which he stated that the average rate of consumption of destructors appeared to be 6 to 9 tons of rubbish per day—say an average of 8 tons per cell. To consume 90 tons per day would, therefore, require a total of 11 cells. To consume 110 tons per day would require a destructor of 14 cells. The usual method of disposing of the clinker from the destructors in seaport towns at home was to dump it at sea. He also gave some other technical details of the destructors, and stated that he hoped to be returning to England very shortly, and should then have an opportunity of enquiring specially into the whole subject, and should the Board consider such a course necessary, he would suggest that H. E. the Officer administering the Government he approached that he might be authorised to incur the necessary expense, and be furnished with such instructions from the Colonial Office as might be deemed advisable.

Mr. EDE moved that it was a good suggestion that Mr. Crook should make full enquiries at home and send out a report thereon as soon as possible.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH recommended that the Government he asked to commission Mr. Crook to make full enquiries while at home and report to the Board on the matter.

The CHAIRMAN said he supposed it would be necessary for the Board to request the Government to let Mr. Crook do as he suggested. He moved that the Board take this course.

Mr. EDE seconded and the motion was carried.

#### THE CONVEYANCE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In consequence of a report from Inspector McDonald that he had been informed by the Inspector of Water Police that "the launch will not be available for me in future to remove patients, as he has no authority from the Captain Superintendent," Dr. Francis W. Clark (Medical Officer of Health) made the following recommendation to the Sanitary Board on March 16th:—"Sir, I have the honour to recommend that the Board should obtain a small boat capable of containing a patient in an ambulance and one attendant for the removal of cases of infectious disease from Kowloon to the Hospital on this side. It will be seen from the attached correspondence that the Captain Superintendent of Police will provide a launch to tow the boat across. I estimate that the cost of such a boat should not exceed \$100."

The following minutes were attached:—

The SECRETARY submitted—"There are really two points of some importance raised here, viz,

1.—The removal of soldiers and their camp followers who may be suffering from certain infectious diseases. In view of our military contribution it hardly seems just that the removal of such patients should be done at the cost of the colony.

2.—The provision of a boat in which civilians suffering from infectious disease in the Kowloon Peninsula may be removed to the Hospital for infectious disease. This appears to me to be both reasonable and necessary, but there is no provision in the current year's estimates for it. Special authority can always be given."

Mr. N. J. EDE—"I am in favour of recommending the Government to let the Sanitary Board get a boat. I think the military authorities should look after their own cases and provide hospital accommodation for infectious diseases."

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—"Unless cases are very frequent I should think it better to hire a sampan when required and disinfect it after use."

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—"I am in favour of getting a boat for the purpose."

The CHAIRMAN—Unfortunately the military have no accommodation at present for cases of infectious diseases. They all have to be treated by the civil authorities.

Mr. EDE—All over the colony?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes. Any case of smallpox or plague which occurs is sent to the hospital. I move that the Board purchase a boat for the purpose.

Mr. EDE, in seconding, said he supposed that would be the cheapest in the end.

The motion was carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND PRIVATE DRAINAGE WORKS.

The directors of the Tung Wa Hospital having been ordered by the Board to carry out some drainage works at their property at No. 12, Po Yan Street, Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, on behalf of the directors, replied that they wished the work carried out by the Public Works Department.

The application having been sent to the Director of Public Works, he replied—"We are too busy to undertake this work. I am not, moreover, in favour of Government interfering with private enterprise in this direction. It will be better for the Tung Wa Hospital authorities to put the matter in the hands of a private architect or builder."

Some difference of opinion was manifested in the minutes of the members respecting a Government Notification No. 378, which reads:—"It is hereby notified that arrangements have been made for the carrying out of sewerage and drainage works on private premises by the Public Works Department. Owners of property and others desirous of such works being carried out by the above department should apply to the Director of Public Works."

The PRESIDENT and DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS were of opinion that the Tung Wa Hospital could not be classed as private premises, and the Director of Public Works wrote—"The notification must be withdrawn. It is quite impossible for the P.W.D. to continue to do all the plumbing works of a city of nearly 200,000 inhabitants."

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE did not think the notification could be cancelled. He should like to know what number of applications per month the P.W.D. have had on the average for work on private premises since the notification was issued.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS inquired if he was in order in asking whether this matter should be laid before the Board. An application which should have come to him was sent to the Secretary of the Board and some correspondence ensued, and as it started by a mistake he thought it was scarcely necessary that it should go on. The question whether the P.W.D. should undertake private drainage works was a question for the Government and himself. It was a question of public works.

The CHAIRMAN—It appears to be a matter purely for the Public Works Department, and I regret very much that it has been introduced into the agenda.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—Whether the work is to be done or not rests between me and the Government and not between me and the Board. If it is discussed here I stand here as a defendant on trial.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The Board require the work to be done; it does not matter who does it.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—The Board require the work to be done, but it is

not for this Board to say how it is to be done. That is the duty of another authority.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. EDE, it was decided that the matter be considered confidentially.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

The mortality returns for the week ended 12th March shows the death rate to be 20.5 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 18.3 in the corresponding period last year. For the week ended 19th March the death rate was 23.6, as compared with 15.8 in the corresponding week last year.

THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF POISONS.

The CHAIRMAN submitted draft by-laws to be made under sub-section 22 of section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887 for regulating "the manufacture and sale of poisons and the sale of unsound and adulterated drugs." He remarked that he must apologise for not having circulated these by-laws, but his excuse was excess of work. As it was more or less a question of urgency he would read the proposed by-laws, and they would see the drift of them. The Chairman read the proposed by-laws, and added that his object in bringing them up was that recent occurrences had forced the necessity of some such by-laws on the colony. He found that there was only one Ordinance for dealing with the sale of poisons, and that was Ordinance 24 of 1887, subsection 22 of section 13. The Board had power to make by-laws with reference to the sale of poisons and the manufacture and sale of unsound and adulterated drugs. Of the total deaths from violence occurring yearly in England about one and a quarter per cent. were due to poisoning. He had referred to statistics and he found that in the Bombay Presidency the deaths from poisons averaged one and three-quarters per cent. of the total deaths from violence each year. The returns for Bengal for three years showed that out of 1,140 deaths 380 were due to poisons. Dr. Clark had kindly ascertained for him the number of deaths from poisoning in the colony of Hongkong during the past two years. In 1896 five deaths were due to poisoning and 171 to accidents. That was roughly a percentage of three as against a percentage of 1.2 in England. In 1897 five deaths were due to poisoning and 159 to violence, which was between three and four per cent. He thought these figures would show conclusively that there ought to be some regulation in the colony for dealing with the sale of poisons. The three poisons in most general use in Hongkong were opium, datura, and arsenic. The Chairman added that he had drawn the proposed by-laws up with the assistance of Mr. Browne, who had given a great deal of time to the subject. He thought this was a matter of public importance. It was a matter which had been brought before the Government more than once, and the present was a very appropriate time to urge upon the Government the necessity of dealing with the question. He begged to lay the by-laws on the table.

Mr. EDE said one would like to see the proposed by-laws in black and white. One could hardly think them out after having merely heard them read.

The CHAIRMAN—If it is the wish of the Board a sub-committee can be appointed to consider them and report to the next meeting, and in the meantime these proposed by-laws may be circulated.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said that four years ago he recommended the placing of some restrictions on the sale of poisons. He pointed out the large number of deaths through the administering of poisons and the large number of suicides by poisoning, but as yet nothing had been done in the matter. It appeared to him that if they were to communicate with the Government in the matter and say that they intended to make by-laws and ask for the assistance of the Attorney-General it would be well. It seemed to him that there would be some difficulty in the way—with regard to opium for instance.

Mr. EDE approved of the suggestion of the previous speaker, and it was decided to act upon it, the proposed by-laws to be circulated in the meantime.

EUROPEANS AND THE PLAGUE.

The PRESIDENT—Taking into consideration the number of false rumours abroad and to

allay public alarm, I now inform you that there is only one European lady at the Kennedytown Hospital suffering from plague, and she is progressing favourably.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned until Thursday week.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly Meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of the Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the 16th March. Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), Herbert Smith (Vice-Chairman), G. B. Dodwell, N. J. Ede, A. Haupt, J. J. Bell-Irving, T. Jackson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held 9th February) were read and confirmed.

STRAITS CURRENCY.

Read letter from Singapore Chamber, dated 7th February, forwarding copies of the Sub-Committee's Report on the currency of 6th November, 1897, with criticisms thereon, and report of proceedings at General Meeting of 15th January.

STORM WARNINGS.

Read letter from the Government stating that, in accordance with the Chamber's recommendation, the system of Meteorological signals obtaining from January, 1884, to December, 1896, was revived on the 29th January, 1897, and will continue in force until further notice.

THE PINNACLE ROCK FUND.

Another acknowledgement of receipt of the Chamber's letter on this subject from the Acting Commissioner of Customs, Pakhoi, was read, in which he stated that the previous letter of the 25th November had not reached him. A copy of the latter had since been forwarded.

EXTENSION OF HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE

TO FAR EAST.

Read copy of despatch (forwarded by courtesy of the Government) from the British Ambassador at Berlin to the Foreign Office announcing that the above Line have resolved to establish a regular monthly service of steamers between Hamburg and ports of Eastern Asia, said service to commence on the 25th Jan. by the despatch of the str. *Andalusia*.

ADULTERATION OF ANISEED OIL.

Read letter from Mr. Hillier, Commissioner Imperial Maritime Customs, Kowloon, forwarding enclosure from Mr. Morse, Commissioner of Customs, Lungchow, on the practice by dealers up country of adulterating aniseed oil, in which he suggests the co-operation of Hongkong importers to check fraud in this trade and prevent its loss or diversion.

Resolved to refer the question to the firms interested in the trade to report on the best means of prevention.

DELIVERIES OF LETTERS BY FRENCH MAIRS.

Read letter from Postmaster-General, in which he asks whether the convenience of firms would be better consulted if the letters only, in the case of the French mails, were first delivered and other matter dealt with subsequently.

Decided to send an answer in the affirmative.

QUARANTINE AGAINST HONGKONG.

Consequent on the action of the Straits Government in declaring Hongkong an infected port and imposing nine days' quarantine, counting from date of departing, on vessels arriving in Singapore from this port with Chinese passengers the following telegram was, on the 12th inst., despatched to the Singapore Chamber of Commerce:

"Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Singapore—Hongkong Chamber strongly protest against quarantine Hongkong. Plague merely sporadic, cases decreasing. Request your Chamber urge Government rescind.—CHAIRMAN."

On the evening of the 14th inst. the subjoined wire was received in reply:

"Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong—Singapore Chamber regrets cannot take responsibility interfere in so grave matter as port health precautions which Government affirms fully justified.—CHAIRMAN."

[March 26, 1898.]

A letter following up the telegram of the 12th inst. and acknowledging receipt of the reply of the 14th inst. was written on the 15th inst.

Read letter from principal shipping firms urging the Chamber to approach the Government on the subject, and take action, which had already been adopted.

Resolved to forward copy of letter to Government with covering letter endorsing the suggestions.

#### TAXES ON IMPORTS IN TRANSIT, &c.

The Chairman called attention to the statement in the Tientsin paper to the effect that the German Minister had induced the Tsungli Yamen to alter the regulations affecting Transit Passes, by which imports will be allowed sale in transit, subject to certain trifling formalities.

After some discussion, it was resolved to address inquiries to the British Consul at Canton on this subject, on the question of the declaration of a tariff of the Tso-li or terminal taxes, and as to whether an explanation had been received from the local officials at Fuchuen in Mr. Watts's case.

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The draft of the annual report was considered, paragraph by paragraph, and passed, the annual meeting being fixed to take place on the 5th proximo.

#### THE TRANSIT PASS TRADE.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, 17th March, 1898.

Sir,—The attention of my Committee has been attracted by a statement in the local journals to the effect that H. E. Baron Von Heyking, Minister Plenipotentiary for Germany at Peking, has induced the Tsung-li Yamen to alter the regulations affecting Transit Passes, and that in future imported goods will be allowed sale in transit, under certain trifling formalities. Also that regulations for the new mode of inland transit have been drawn up by Sir Robert Hart. This is a matter of so much importance to the trade in imports that my Committee are naturally desirous of obtaining early information on the subject, and I shall therefore esteem it a favour if you will be good enough to say whether you have received any intimation of such a change.

In reference to the question of the declaration of all Tso-li taxes by the Chinese officials to the Foreign Consuls, concerning which I had the honour to address you on the 6th September last, my Committee would be pleased to learn how far this matter has progressed, and whether the provincial officials have supplied the desired information.

I have further to inquire whether any satisfactory explanation of Mr. Watts's case has been received from the Viceroy, to whom you had referred his complaint of the conduct of the Fu Chuen officials.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,  
Chairman.

Byron Brenan, Esq., C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Consul, Canton.

H.B.M.'s Consulate,  
Canton, 18th March, 1898.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of yesterday regarding the sale *en route* of foreign goods under transit pass, although I have as yet no official information on the subject, I am able to state that a modification of the existing rule will come into force immediately; and under the new regulations it will be permitted to sell goods *en route* before they reach the destination mentioned in the covering transit pass. Should a portion of the merchandise be thus sold *en route* it will be necessary for the owner to make a declaration to that effect at the next barrier encountered and have the quantity sold endorsed on the transit pass.

I consider this modification of the transit pass regulations to be of great value; not only in that a merchant will not now be compelled to proceed to a distant market when a more profitable one presents itself near at hand, but because under the new rule it will be more difficult for the lekin officials to arrange their plans for recovering from the Chinese purchaser

at the destination the charges which the transit pass has enabled the goods to escape on the journey.

As regards the interference on the part of the Fu Chuen Magistrate with the sale of coal to Mr. Watts, I am as yet without any explanation from the Viceroy. I have several times requested him to call on the Fu Chuen Magistrate for a report, and in replying to me on the last occasion the Viceroy stated that he had directed the Magistrate to submit an explanation within three days of the receipt of his instructions.

On the subject of the *tso-li* I shall write in a separate letter.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

BYRON BRENAN,  
Consul.

The Chairman, the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

H.B.M.'s Consulate,  
Canton, 18th March, 1898.

Sir,—It will be of interest to your Chamber to learn that the Viceroy of the two Kwang Provinces has abolished the syndicate which farmed the collection of *tso-li* tax on kerosine oil. The Viceroy's order states that this is done by direction of the Tsungli Yamen, and that in future the collection of the *tso-li* (destination) tax must be controlled by Government officials.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

BYRON BRENAN,  
Consul.

The Chairman, the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

#### THE DELIVERY OF THE FRENCH MAIL.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce:—

General Post Office,  
Hongkong, 14th March, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to enquire whether your Chamber would consider it a convenience, in the case of the French mail, to have only letters delivered in the first instance, newspaper and other printed matter being left to be dealt with later.

Commercial firms would in that case have over an hour extra to spare on each occasion in dealing with their forward correspondence.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant.

A. M. THOMSON,  
Postmaster General.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 17th March, 1898.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 14th instant inquiring whether this Chamber consider it would be a convenience, in the case of the French Mails, to have only letters delivered in the first instance, other matter being left to be dealt with later, I am directed by my Committee to say that in their opinion it would be a decided convenience to the commercial community, if the delivery of the letters would thereby be expedited, and they will be glad to see the proposal carried into effect.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,  
Secretary.

To A. M. Thomson, Esq., Postmaster General.

#### QUARANTINE AT SINGAPORE.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,  
Hongkong, 15th March, 1898.

Dear Sir,—On the 12th inst., in consequence of the receipt of information to the effect that the Government of the Straits Settlements had declared Hongkong an infected port and that nine day's quarantine, counting from the date of departure, has been imposed upon vessels arriving at Singapore from this colony, the following telegram was despatched to you:—

"Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Singapore.—Hongkong Chamber strongly protest against quarantine Hongkong plague merely sporadic, cases decreasing. Request your Chamber urge Government rescind."

My Committee being of opinion that the Government of the Straits Settlements have acted in this matter upon a misconception of the facts. Bubonic plague is not and has not been this year epidemic in the colony, as will be seen by the following figures taken from the return issued by the Sanitary Board showing the numbers of cases and of deaths reported from the 1st January last to the end of last week:—

Week ended.	Cases.	Deaths.
1st January	nil	nil
8th "	2	1
15th "	nil	nil
22nd "	2	2
29th "	2	4
5th February	5	3
12th "	5	5
19th "	9	6
26th "	46	42
5th March	22	17
12th "	16	12

or a total of 109 cases and 92 deaths. The period during which the cases rose to 46 was the week when the annual Races were held, on which occasion there was a large influx of visitors from China, who are believed to have brought the disease with them. Since then it is noticeable how rapidly the number of cases has declined, and it is reasonable to expect within a very short time they will become a negligible quantity.

My Committee therefore felt justified in asking your Chamber to take up the question, and, in the light of the above facts, to urge the Straits Government to remove the quarantine declared against vessels with Chinese passengers arriving from Hongkong, which not only causes delay to the general trade but has a tendency to divert the native passenger traffic into other than the accustomed channels.

I have now to thank you for your reply to my telegram, which arrived last night. The tenor of that message was regarded by my Committee with much regret, but they trust your Government will soon see good reason to modify their opinion as to the danger of infection, and will withdraw the quarantine now enforced.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. M. GRAY, Chairman.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong 17th March, 1898.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Acting Governor, copy of a letter addressed to this Chamber by the principal shipping firms and agencies in this colony, protesting against the action of the Government of the Straits Settlements in declaring Hongkong an infected port and imposing nine days' quarantine, counting from the date of departure, on vessels arriving at Singapore thence.

This Chamber fully endorse the protest against the action of the Singapore Authorities, which is unwarranted by the sporadic character of the outbreak, and the fact that the cases are declining. My Committee trust that His Excellency the Acting Governor will vigorously protest against the practice at Singapore of resorting to restrictive measures against this port before any real necessity arises, by disease becoming epidemic, to the serious detriment of trade and loss to the shipping interests.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,

Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong 14th March, 1898.

R. C. WILCOX, Esq., Secretary,

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—On the 11th instant it was announced in the local press that "An official telegram has been received from Singapore stating that Hongkong has been declared an infected port and that nine days' quarantine counting from the date of departure has been imposed upon vessels arriving at Singapore from Hongkong." Private telegrams received from Singapore, since this announcement was made, explain that vessels not carrying Chinese passengers will be admitted to pratique if the medical inspection held, on arrival, is satisfactory.

That the Straits Government should take proper precautions to safeguard Singapore from a visitation of the plague is only reasonable and right, and, provided the preventive measures adopted were fully justified, it will be readily acknowledged that in the restrictions they are enforcing to protect the port a very laudable desire is manifested to minimise the inconveniences and loss caused to shipping and trade generally as much as possible.

We would, however, point out that the plague as it exists in this Colony at the present moment is merely sporadic and has certainly not reached a stage to justify the decision of the Straits Government in declaring Hongkong an infected port. In support of this contention we now beg to enclose an official return of the number of cases recorded from the commencement of the year to the 11th instant, the date on which the telegraphic notification was received. From this return it will be seen that the total number of cases to that date amounted to 107, say an average of 1.521 per diem. If this total is compared to the Chinese population of Hongkong, which according to the census taken last year is, approximately, 240,000, the proportion is infinitesimal; in fact it is not until we analyse the Return that we can even hazard a conjecture as to the reason which decided the Straits Government to adopt such a strong measure as to impose quarantine on arrivals from this port.

According to the Return the total number of cases up to the 12th February amounted to only 16. For the week ending 19th February 9 cases were recorded, then for the week ending 26th February the total jumped to 46, and it may be assumed it was on account of this increase that the Straits Government became alarmed. The reason, however, for this sudden augmentation is not far to seek. The Races occurred during the week in question, when it will be remembered that unusually large numbers of Chinese poured to the colony from Canton. During the ensuing week the number of cases declined to 22, and since then there has been a further decrease.

There is, we feel assured, good reason for the hope, in view of the reforms which have been effected in the sanitary arrangements and regulations, that Hongkong for the future may have an immunity from plague in epidemic form, but it is to be feared that sporadic cases will continue to occur at this season of the year, for at least some time to come, and the question arises whether the infliction of quarantine on arrivals from the colony is to be of annual recurrence?

Under these circumstances we would, therefore, ask the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to represent to His Excellency the Acting Governor the importance, as a matter of principle, of protesting vigorously against any quarantine restrictions being imposed at Singapore on arrivals from this Colony now and hereafter, unless, of course, there should be ample reason for it, and also to request the Chamber at Singapore to co-operate with them in urging on the Governor of the Straits Settlements the desirability of removing the quarantine.

However much consideration may be shown in formulating quarantine regulations, they must necessarily injure the interests of this Colony and interfere with shipping; the fact that passengers are debarred from taking native servants with them is, in itself, a very serious inconvenience to families who are travelling, but the real mischief is in the fact that other ports, finding the nearest British colony considers it necessary to impose quarantine on arrivals from Hongkong, will naturally follow the example set them, and are not unlikely to enforce restrictions far more onerous and detrimental to trade.

In the face of the facts set forth above, we hardly see how the Straits Government can reasonably persist in this present action.

We are, dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

H. A. RITCHIE  
Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Co.  
G. de CHAMPAUX  
Agent, M. M.  
MELCHERS & Co.  
Agents, Norddeutscher Lloyd.  
BUTTERFIELD & SWINE  
Agents, O. S. S. Co., C. N. Co., S. O.  
S. S. Co.  
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.

BRADLEY & Co.  
Agents, Shan Line  
SIEMSEN & Co.  
HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.  
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.  
Y. SHIGAKI  
Agents, Nippon Yusen Kaisha  
CARLOWITZ & Co.  
SANDER, WIELER & Co.  
Agents, Austrian Lloyds  
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.  
Agents, Ben Line of Strs.  
DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.  
General Agents, Northern Pacific S. Co.  
Agents, Mogul and Warrack Lines Steamer  
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,  
Agents, China and Manila S. S. Co., Limited.  
Shire Line  
New York Line  
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

P.S.—Since the above letter was written a telegram from Singapore has been published in the *Hongkong Daily Press* stating that the Chamber of Commerce there does not favour the removal of quarantine against arrivals from Hongkong. It is, however, probable that the Committee of the Chamber had not sufficient data to enable them to judge the position rightly, and it is to be hoped on receipt of the actual facts they will reconsider their decision.

#### HONGKONG CENTRE OF THE LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

SPEECH BY SIR JOHN CARRINGTON.

The second annual distribution of prizes and certificates in connection with the Hongkong Centre of the London College of Music took place in the City Hall on Monday afternoon. The chair was occupied by Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice), who was supported by the Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), the Hon. E. R. Belilius, the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, and Mr. E. Ralphs, Secretary of the local branch. The medals kindly presented by the Hon. E. R. Belilius to the two students (boy and girl) who have obtained the highest aggregate of marks in theory and practical music are exceedingly beautiful ones, and the designs are most appropriate.

Mr. E. RALPHS, local secretary of the London College of Music, read the following report:—

The second of the annual examinations held in Hongkong by the London College of Music took place in November and December last.

In Piano playing the candidates were examined by Messrs. A. G. Ward and G. Grimble. Mr. G. P. Lammert being unable to attend. There were twenty-two candidates, and of these twenty passed, nine being placed in the First Class, one with Honours.

The Theory papers were worked under the superintendence of the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., and were examined by Dr. Sangster and Dr. Karn.

In this branch there were fourteen candidates; of these eleven passed, five being placed in the First Class. The results in Theory shew a considerable improvement upon those of last year, and in some cases very high marks were gained, one candidate in the Junior Honours section obtaining 99 marks out of a possible 100.

The Hon. E. R. Belilius, C.M.G., has very kindly offered to present at each examination two medals to the candidates who obtain the highest aggregate of marks in Theory and Practical Music. The medals have this year been awarded to Miss Ruby Ley Kum and Frank Crawford.

I am directed to convey the thanks of the Council of the College to the examiners, for the efficient manner in which they have conducted the examinations, and to the authorities of the City Hall for granting us, on several occasions, the use of this building.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. Belilius for the medals, and to Mr. D. R. Crawford and Professor Cattaneo for offering prizes.

#### EXAMINERS' REPORT.

The following report by the examiners was also read by Mr. RALPHS:—

The Examinations in pianoforte playing were held on November 27th and December 4th,

1897. Twenty-two candidates presented themselves, of whom three entered for the Senior, 9 for the Intermediate, and 10 for the Elementary Sections. All were successful, except 2 of the candidates, who entered for the Senior Section.

The selected pieces were for the most part accurately played, though there appeared to be a curious difference of opinion with regard to the 'Tempo' of some of the pieces and a determination, almost heroic on the part of some of the performers, to ignore the marks of expression.

The Scale and Arpeggio playing was on the whole very creditable, and we were glad to notice that some regard had been paid to our advice of last year, and, as a consequence, there was much less of the "scrambling" that was so apparent at the last examination.

The Reading at Sight (confined to the Senior and Intermediate Sections) was, again, with one or two exceptions, deplorably weak, and we must once more urge students to pay more attention to this most important branch of pianoforte playing.

The answers to the questions on the rudiments and theory of music were, on the other hand, much better than at the last examination; several of the candidates scoring nearly full marks in this subject. But here again we must offer a little advice:—Always bear in mind the question that has been asked, and do not give more information by your answer than is required. Do not give your answers as if you were repeating them from a book, but thoroughly grasp the meaning of every thing, and try to put your answers into your own words as clearly and concisely as possible. In spite of these shortcomings, however, the results of the examination are, again, distinctly encouraging, and we trust that both the successful and the unsuccessful candidates may be stimulated to achieve greater proficiency in the art.

(Signed) GEO. GRIMBLE.  
A. G. WAED.

After distributing the prizes, Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, who was received with applause, said that on that occasion it was generally taken that an obligation was laid on the Chairman to make a few remarks. That was a very good thing when the chairman happened to know something of the matter in hand. He did not think it was quite so good a thing when the chairman happened to be totally ignorant of it. That was his unhappy position that night. Mr. Ralphs was good enough to ask him to come and take the chair, and he was weak enough to comply. He said weak enough because they would quite understand that he regarded it as a great compliment to have been asked to take the chair, but still one felt that if one had had a firmer will one would have said, "No, get someone who knows something about music to make the few remarks necessary on this occasion." He might confess to them, what they probably knew, that there were a great many subjects about which he knew little or nothing, but if there was one subject about which he knew less than another it was music. (Laughter.) His knowledge of the theory of music was nil, and his skill in the practice of music was also what somebody once called a "frightful minus quantity." (Laughter.) He ventured to say he could clear that room in five seconds, and their eagerness to get out of the room would be such that they would seek the nearest means of exit, regardless whether it was the door or window, and he could do that by beginning to sing. (Laughter.) That was at any rate what his wife would tell them if she were there. However, while he had no knowledge of music and no skill in music he was proud to claim himself as a great admirer and lover of music. (Applause.) He would first of all touch on a few of the practical points which arose on that occasion. With regard to the London College of Music, he gathered from the Annual Register and Calendar which Mr. Ralphs was good enough to send him that it was a comparatively new musical organisation. It was established apparently only in the year 1887, and it was incorporated so late as the year 1892. It seemed to have an influential body of patrons and a very excellent body of examiners. Their system was to hold examinations at the various centres in the United Kingdom and in the colonies, and to award certificates.

and prizes on the results of those examinations. In addition to that they had a central institution in London at which musical students were trained. They would be glad to hear that the introductory remarks of the Annual Register spoke of the past year—1897—as being a record year. The institution seemed to have thriven more last year than in any previous year. The number of successful candidates last year for the United Kingdom was 7,284, and for the foreign and colonial centres 550. He thought they would agree with him that that represented an enormous amount of good work in the cause of the furtherance of music and a love of music. (Applause.) This was the way the work done during the past year was spoken of:—"Not only in the United Kingdom has this expansion in the work taken place, but a steady and continued increase has been asserting itself in many of the foreign and colonial centres. Prominent in this respect may be mentioned the centres in Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, China, and India. In each of these parts of the globe capable and efficient representatives have been zealously performing with conspicuous success the duties allotted to them." They would see that in that paragraph China was mentioned as being one of the prominent centres of successful work during the past year, and when he turned to the list of centres in the Register he found that the China section was represented by Hongkong alone, so that they saw that in effect it was the work in Hongkong which was being spoken about during the past year as having been prominently successful. He thought they might congratulate themselves on the good work Mr. Ralphs and the examiners had been doing in furthering the interests of the College of Music there during the past year, and also that they might express the hope that the years to come would see even wider and still more successful work done under the auspices of the College of Music. He supposed he ought not to sit down without making definite acknowledgments to the examiners for their kindness in conducting the examinations, and to his friehd Mr. Belilius for his generosity in presenting such handsome medals to the principal successful students. (Hear, hear.) He was quite sure that the awarding of handsome medals of that kind must serve as a useful stimulus to the zeal of the musical students in the colony, because he ventured to say that they were very much more handsome than the decorations which his honourable friends and himself were privileged to wear. (applause)—and he was quite sure that the lady and gentleman who had received them would wear them with pride and pleasure whenever they could get an opportunity of doing so. (Hear, hear.) He did not know that that was the time or the occasion, and there was not the leisure, to dwell on the delights and pleasures of music. He took it that those delights and pleasures were all realised by them from the fact of their coming there that afternoon to countenance that good cause. Although, as he had said before, he knew nothing about music, he was a great student of poetry, or rather was in his early days when he had more time for it. They would find scattered up and down the works of the poets the most charming and sympathetic references to the sister art of music. He could have given his hearers some of them, but perhaps he had better spare them, and let them have only two—one taken from the divine bard and the other from Pope's "St. Cecilia's Day." This was the way Shakespeare, in "The Merchant of Venice," spoke of the delights and charms of music:—

The man that hath no music in himself,  
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,  
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils;  
The motions of his soul are dull as night,  
And his affections dark as Erebus;  
Let no such man be trusted.

They would see that went the length of saying that the man who had not got the love of music in his soul was a man not to be trusted, was a man given to dark and insidious ways. This was what Pope said:—

By music, minds an equal temper know,  
Nor swell too high nor sink too low :—  
In the breast tumultuous joys arise,  
Music her soft assuasive voice applies;  
Or, when the soul is pressed with cares,  
Exalts her in enliv'ning airs.

If they wanted to read poems in which the love of music and the divine charms of music were dealt with in a most admirable way he would recommend them to read Dryden's "Ode on Alexander's Feast," and also Dryden's "Ode on St. Cecilia's Day." He thought the reading of these poems proved to them at once what an ineffable charm there was in music. How music could act as a spur to the soul and could raise the soul above the grosser things of this world and take it up into higher regions altogether. (Applause.) He ventured on behalf of those who were interested in those examinations to express their great pleasure that so many ladies and gentlemen had come on that occasion to countenance the work which was being carried on by Mr. Ralphs and the examiners. (Applause.) He was quite sure that if the governing people of the College of Music could have been there on that occasion they would have been very much gratified to see the interest taken in the work in this centre of Hongkong, and would look forward in the future to a still greater extension of their work, and would no doubt feel that the young people would be coming forward in greater numbers to pass through their examinations, and that in that way the knowledge of music and the love of music would be spread more throughout the colony of Hongkong. It was often said that the English people were not musical, that they were not trained in music like the people say of Germany. But he believed they had done a great deal to wipe away that reproach. Undoubtedly the musical organisation was much more widespread and influential than it used to be in past years, and he was quite sure they all hoped and believed that that organisation would extend in usefulness and efficiency, and that by and by the reproach levelled at them would be taken away, and they would become a nation fond of music and a nation skilled in music. This was a high and admirable aim to strive for, and he hoped they would be successful in attaining it not only in the United Kingdom, but in the little centre of Hongkong. (Applause.)

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS proposed a vote of thanks to Sir John Carrington for presiding. He said that Sir John had shewn himself a most earnest friend of education in all its branches, and they all greatly appreciated the time and trouble he had spent in honouring this and other gatherings with his presence.

The resolution was unanimously carried and the proceedings, which were interspersed with selections of music by Miss Crawford, Miss Ruby Ley Kum, and Mr. E. Danenberg, were brought to a close.

#### THE PRIZE LIST.

The following were the recipients of the prizes, etc.:—

Emil Danenberg, theory, A. Mus., prize; Ruby Ley Kum, Belilius Medal, piano, senior, 1st class honours, theory, junior honours, 1st class; Frank Crawford, Belilius Medal, piano, intermediate, pass, theory, junior honours, 1st class; Serena Mehta, prize, piano, intermediate, 1st class; A. Parlane, prize; Aida Alves, prize, piano, elementary, 1st class; Edward S. Ford, prize, theory, junior honours, 1st class; Melinda Duncan, piano, intermediate, 1st class; Alfred Humphreys, piano, intermediate, pass, theory, junior honours, pass; M. A. Hyndman, piano, intermediate, pass; Mary Carroll, piano, intermediate, pass; A. A. Wilson, piano, intermediate, pass, theory, junior, 1st class; Mary F. Rodger, piano, intermediate, pass; I. C. Henderson, piano, intermediate, pass; A. M. Parker, piano, elementary, 1st class; A. Lee, piano, elementary, 1st class; Grace H. Wilson, piano, elementary, 1st class; W. J. Clerihew, piano, elementary, 1st class theory, junior, pass; Madeleine Quincey, piano, elementary, pass, theory, junior, pass; Mary Quincey, piano, elementary, pass, theory, elementary, pass; Ella M. King, piano, elementary, pass; Emily Jorge, piano, elementary, pass; Maria Rocha, theory, junior, pass; Fred. W. Shaw, theory, elementary, pass.

The Soerabaya Handelsblad says:—Mr. Brady, who in the short time he has been at Soerabaya has already made himself so popular with his performances, is going on leave to Europe for two years. On his return he will either be chief of the Hongkong Bank at Soerabaya or be stationed in Japan.

#### THE SCARCITY OF RICE IN KWANGTUNG.

##### ILLEGAL SHIPMENTS.

The scarcity of rice in Kwangtung province and the high prices prevailing have in several districts led to riots. In Shekloong the rice hongs were raided by the populace just when there happened to be a full stock on hand, and property amounting in all to a value of about \$80,000 was stolen or destroyed. In Sanhui also the rice hongs were raided and four men were killed. In other places similar riots have taken place. At Canton the charitable institutions are selling rice to the poorer classes at the rate of 40 catties for \$1, which is considerably below the market price. A portion of the rice so disposed of has been brought down by gunboats from Hupeh and Hunan and a portion consists of grain seized by the authorities while being illegally exported, the export of rice from China being prohibited.

Japan is purchasing a great quantity of rice at present, and the Chinese dealers have devised a means by which they can profit by the demand from that quarter. Although rice cannot be exported from China it can be shipped from one treaty port to another under bond. The rice merchants at Shanghai, we are informed, have accordingly applied for permission to ship rice to Canton, giving as their explanation of the large quantities going forward that there is a famine in Kwangtung and that unless rice is procurable a rebellion will inevitably break out. Steamers are therefore despatched heavily laden with rice for Canton under bond, but when they arrive in Hongkong a large portion of their cargoes is transhipped for Japan, and inferior rice, paddy, and husks taken on board to make up the deficiency. About a fortnight ago a steamer arrived in this harbour with about 18,000 piculs of rice ostensibly for Canton and landed fully half the amount here for shipment to Japan, and since then several other steamers have done the same. The business is attended with considerable risk, for if the trick were discovered by the Customs at Canton not only would the bond be estreated, but both the cargo and steamer would be liable to confiscation.

#### HONGKONG ODD VOLUMES SOCIETY.

##### MR. GRANVILLE SHARP AND HONGKONG SCHOOLMASTERS.

On Wednesday afternoon Commodore Holland, A.D.C., delivered a lecture in the Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall, before the members of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, on "The Sun." Mr. T. Jackson occupied the chair. The lecture, which was exceedingly interesting, was illustrated by diagrams kindly supplied by Mr. Ordish, superintendent engineer at the naval yard.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Commodore at the conclusion of the lecture, observed that the lecture led them up. The people of Hongkong were too busy either with money or with land or with buying or selling. They had got so much to do that they did not give a thought to those things about which they had just heard. Very few of them were at all thoroughly up in those things. They did not teach them at school, and for the very good reason that the schoolmaster did not know much about them. (Laughter.) But they might be very thankful indeed for anything which led them out of their daily groove, and if there was one thing which made them feel small and feel the magnitude of the Creator it was the study of His works by the scientific means which in His providence they had been permitted to discover. (Applause.)

Mr. W. MACHELL, in seconding, assured Mr. Sharp that the schoolmasters of to-day did know of the things about which they had just heard—(hear, hear)—and he guaranteed that he, as one of the humblest members of that class, could teach Mr. Sharp more about the sun than he ever knew in his life before, or even had heard that afternoon. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SHARP—I must apologise for my reference to the teachers. (Hear, hear.) My in-

struction was received at a totally different period—60 years ago. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was carried and the COMMODORE having returned thanks for the same the proceedings terminated.

#### PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA.

H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia was warmly received on his arrival in Canton. He dined with the German Consul on the evening of the 17th and a Chinese banquet to H.R.H. was given by the Viceroy of Canton on the afternoon of the 18th. In the evening there was a grand display of fire works.

The Prince returned to Hongkong from Canton on Saturday last and was present at Mrs. Bell-Irving's At Home in the afternoon.

A Ball in honour of H.R.H. will be held at the City Hall on the 29th March. The general committee of the Ball is constituted as follows:—Sir John Carrington, C.M.G. (Chairman); G. C. Anderson, F. Augustin, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, C. Beurmann, G. Boning, Hon. E. R. Belilius, D. E. Brown, P. Brewitt, G. M. Bain, H. Bird, A. Babington, Hon. C. P. Chater, D. R. Crawford, G. de Champeaux, R. Cooke, G. C. Cox, G. A. Caldwell, V. H. Deacon, W. Danby, N. J. Ede, J. J. Francis, Q.C., Fung Wah Chuen, C. Ford, J. M. Forbes, D. Goh, D. Gillies, M. Grote, F. A. Gomes, Commander Hastings, H. Humphreys, A. Haupt, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, F. Henderson, T. F. Hough, T. Jackson, J. H. Lewis, J. Lauts, J. J. Leiria, D. Landale, R. K. Leigh, E. W. Mitchell, H. N. Mody, R. M. Moses, St. C. Michaelsen, D. Macdonald, J. McKie, Hon. F. H. May, H. C. Nicolle, A. J. Raymond, H. A. Ritchie, A. J. Rozario, W. H. Ray, R. Shewan, C. S. Sharp, N. A. Siebs, G. Stewart, Hon. T. Sercombe, Smith, L. Suidter, A. Schellhass, A. G. Stokes, J. Thurburn, J. Y. V. Vernon, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, E. S. Whealler, G. Wider, Hon. Wei Yuk, D. Wood, W. H. Wickham, G. H. Wheeler, His Honour Mr. Justice Wise.

#### CHARGE OF BLACKMAILING A CHINESE DOCTOR.

##### A CIVIL HOSPITAL STUDENT IN THE DOCK.

At the Police Court on Monday, before Commander W.C.H. Hastings, Mok Lai Sun, student apothecary at the Government Civil Hospital, was charged with demanding, with menaces, the sum of \$170 from Lai Ying Hon, a Chinese medical practitioner, on the 19th June, 1897.

The prosecutor said—I am a Chinese medical practitioner and a partner in the Tak On Tong druggist shop, 118, Queen's Road Central. I know the defendant. In June last year I was consulted by a man who was a stranger to me. I prescribed for him. I attended him for three consecutive days and at the end of that time he informed me that he felt no better nor worse. I told him to consult another doctor. On the 17th June last a man surnamed Chen came to me and told me he was employed in the Government Civil Hospital, and he asked me to go to the hospital on the 18th to see the doctor. I went there with Chen between eight and nine p.m. on the 18th and saw the defendant. Defendant said, "The doctor says you have prescribed for a patient and made the disease worse. The Analyst has said that patient was bad on account of your having prescribed 'pak po,' which is a medicine to cure cough and is not a poison. Defendant further said, "The doctor now wants to know what you propose to do and if you will undertake to cure the patient." I said I would not guarantee to cure the man. Defendant said, "The Analyst says you have prescribed poison: do you want to get into trouble or not? If you wish to avoid trouble you had better make a present to the Analyst and then you will be all right." I said, "What sort of a present do you wish me to make—liquor or cigars?" Defendant replied, "I want neither. I want \$600." I said I had not got so much money and asked why I should give him \$600. Defendant said, "If you do not give me \$600 you will get into trouble." This conversation took place in the office. Afterwards defendant took me down to his sleeping room, where he scolded me and said I must have saved some money

and must give him a present. He added that all the Chinese doctors in the colony were under his supervision and the \$600 would be divided between the doctors, apothecaries, analyst, and coolies at the hospital. If I did not make the present defendant said he would have my shop shut up. I said I had no money, I had done nothing wrong, and he could do what he liked. He said, "You must make a present; every doctor in the colony had to make a present once. I asked him to decrease the amount and I would pay \$8 or \$10. Defendant said he would decrease the amount to \$400 as it was getting late. I asked him to further reduce the demand, adding that I was willing to pay \$20 or \$30. Defendant then came down to \$300. Chen, who had been present all the time, said, "Pay as much as you can." I said I could only pay \$100 and that with great difficulty. I also told him it was getting late and I wished to go away. Defendant said, "You may go away, but I must have \$300 by 8.30 a.m. to-morrow, otherwise I will examine the prescription again and send you to gaol." I then left. On getting home I thought over the matter and next morning went and saw Mok San Nam, to whom I told all that had occurred. He went with me to the hospital, where we saw the defendant, who said, "Have you brought the money?" I said, "No, I have come again to ask for a reduction." Defendant replied that he must have at last \$200. I begged for a further reduction. Defendant said that as Mok San Nam was present he would take \$170. He threatened me that if I did not pay the money by 4.30 p.m. that day he would have me arrested and put into gaol, as my prescriptions were not proper, but if I paid him \$170 he would put my prescriptions all right. Defendant also told me that my patient was in the hospital and he would induce him to run away if the money was paid. I left with Mok San Nam after the defendant had told me to hand the \$170 to Mok San Nam, who would take it to the hospital. At 4.30 the same day Mok San Nam came to me and I handed him \$170 in bank notes, telling him to get a receipt from the defendant. Mok San Nam went away with the money and returned between five and six o'clock. I afterwards went to his house and he handed me the receipt produced. About the beginning of July I saw the defendant in a shop in Stanley Street. He said the patient was all right and I must pay him \$20 or \$30 to go home. I refused, saying that the \$170 was to cover everything. Defendant replied, "You may refuse to give it to me, but I will get you out of Hongkong and will not allow you to carry on your business in Hongkong. I will dispose of you later on." I then went away and on the 20th August swore an information against the defendant.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings, who defended—I left Hongkong between the 20th and 28th June. I did not leave because there was a warrant out against me for procuring abortion. I was away between twenty and thirty days. I did not send anyone to arrange matters for my return. I did not procure abortion. The woman I attended did not tell me she was *enceinte*. I did not administer a drug to her. She told me she had not seen her husband for twelve months. I do not know if the doctor at the Government Civil Hospital advised a prosecution. That was not the reason I ran away from the colony. The defendant did not tell me the man I had attended had a claim against me, nor did he say the man was going to sue me. I did not tell the defendant to settle matters. The man has never made a claim against me.

By Mr. Gedge, who prosecuted—When I returned to the colony I consulted Mr. Francis, who sent me to see you.

Mok San Nam, godown keeper in the employment of Carlowitz & Co., said—On the 19th June complainant saw me. I went to the hospital and said to the defendant, "Why do you want money from the doctor?" Defendant replied, "Because the doctor instead of curing a patient made him worse. He has given him poison. The patient is now in the hospital and the European doctor in the hospital is very angry with the Chinese doctor, and the doctor wants \$600 from him to pay the patient and us. If he has not got the money to pay he will be arrested and sent

to gaol." I replied that the complainant was a friend of mine and asked the defendant to reduce the amount. Defendant said he would take \$300. Witness then gave an account of the conversation that took place between the complainant and the defendant at the hospital in witness's presence.

By Mr. Hastings—When I saw the defendant he said to me, "The Chinese doctor has mistreated the man and now the doctor at the hospital wishes to punish him. The Chinese doctor has prescribed poison. \$600 are now required to compensate the patient and for us." He added that the patient was going to make a claim against the doctor for mistreating him. I heard the complainant tell the defendant to settle the matter by giving him some money. That was on the 19th June. Defendant told me that part of the money would go to the patient and that he would speak to the doctor, and the trouble would be finished.

Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, said a warrant was issued against the complainant for procuring abortion, and the reason it was not executed was that the evidence on which the warrant was granted was not available. Witness had tried to find the woman. He had no suspicion that the complainant had got the woman out of the colony. The defendant was committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions, \$1,000 bail being allowed.

#### THE DEATH OF MR. H. COOK.

On 18th March Commander W.C.H. Hastings resumed the inquest respecting the death of Mr. H. Cook, late secretary and manager of the New Club.

Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, said—On March 10th I received from Dr. Lawson the contents of the deceased's stomach. There was a strong odour of chloral in the contents and I separated one and a half grains. I also examined a resinous substance, which I found to be benzoin. On March 11th, I received a number of bottles from Sergeant Gidley. One bottle contained 7 ozs. of liquid taken from a spittoon in the deceased's bedroom. The liquid contained 48½ grains of chloral and also some brandy: it appeared to be a vomit. Another bottle contained tincture of benzoin; another contained a liquid which was a solution of chloral and water. I examined the other bottles and the two tumblers which were found on the washstand, but nothing was found.

Dr. J. A. Lawson, medical officer in charge of post mortem examinations, said—On March 10th I examined the body of Harry Cook. I found the stomach considerably inflamed, especially at the cardiac end. The kidneys were extremely congested, the brain was congested, and the membranes were also considerably congested. There were patches of inflammation in the upper part of the small intestine. I sent the contents of the stomach to the Government Analyst. All the signs found in the stomach were certainly those of an irritant poison; it might have been strong alcohol. Raw brandy, if taken in considerable quantities, would, it is possible, have produced the same signs. A continued tipple of strong brandy might have produced the intense congestion of the kidneys present. Benzoin was tincture of benjamin, and if taken in large quantities, and undiluted, might have caused inflammatory signs in the stomach. My idea is that the man died from an overdose of chloral, which, under the circumstances, he was in an exceedingly bad state to excrete. There were 48½ grains of chloral in the vomit and 1½ grains in the vomit, or 50 grains in all, and he would probably absorb more. He had been drinking for some considerable time and a large dose of chloral would, in the majority of such cases, kill a man sooner than a healthy man. I suggest that enquiries be made as to the time and date that the bottle of medicine containing the chloral was bought at Watson's Dispensary, because the whole of the contents may have been swallowed immediately after it was issued. The bottle was labelled "cough mixture," and the chloral might have been put in afterwards. The heart was normal.

Henry Humphreys, partner in the firm of John D. Humphreys and Son, said—The deceased's accounts were fairly satisfactory. He had overdrawn his account to the extent of \$250, but he had put into the safe I.O.U's

for that amount. There was no suggestion whatever of any defalcation.

The inquiry was further adjourned until Tuesday at eleven o'clock to enable the Police to make enquiries at the Dispensary.

On Tuesday morning Commander W. C. H. Hastings resumed the inquiry.

William Denny Sutton, assistant at the Hongkong Dispensary, said—I made up the mixture which was in the bottle produced. It was for the deceased. I cannot tell the exact date, but it was five or six weeks ago last Sunday. The mixture contained ipecacuanha wine ten minimis; compound tincture of camphor, twenty minimis; syrup of squills, thirty minimis; infusion of senega,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. The mixture did not contain chloral. There is one grain of opium in 20 grains of tincture of camphor: that is not a fatal dose for an adult. I cannot in any way account for the presence of chloral in the bottle. The mixture was a simple every day medicine for a cough, I do not think, as one of the witnesses suggested, that he sent to the dispensary for some drops to steady his nerves. I have no knowledge of it. Two or three days after the deceased had the mixture he bought a box of pastilles for his cough. The pastilles do not contain chloral. I have never supplied him with anything else, and as far as I know no-one else has supplied him with medicine.

The Magistrate—I find that the cause of death was an overdose of chloral. I think it right to say that there is nothing at all to show that the deceased intended to take his life. I have just received the following letter from the Dispensary:—

The Hongkong Dispensary.

19th March, 1898.

Sir,—With reference to the enquiry which took place yesterday in connection with the death of Mr. H. Cook, we think it only right to inform you that no chloral whatever was supplied by us to the deceased.

We also think it necessary to at once bring this to your notice because Dr. Lawson's evidence might give rise to false impressions in the public mind.

No one in our firm would be allowed to give more than one dose of chloral to anyone without a doctor's prescription. The British Pharmacopeia dose is from 5 to 30 grains.—We have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servants,

A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.

John D. Humphreys and Son.  
Commander W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., Acting  
Magistrate.

#### SUDDEN DEATH OF THE HOSPITAL WARDMASTER.

Mr. Alfred Feltham, Wardmaster at the Government Civil Hospital, was found dead in his quarters at the hospital on the 18th March. The deceased was quite a young man and was well liked by his friends.

On Monday afternoon Commander W. C. H. Hastings opened an inquiry concerning the death.

Dr. Atkinson said—I am Principal Civil Medical Officer. At 3.35 p.m. on the 17th inst. I was in my house at the hospital when I received a telephone message to go down and see Mr. Feltham, the wardmaster. I went at once to his rooms at the hospital and found him lying dead on the sofa. I had seen him before that morning and he appeared to be in his usual health. Deceased had been employed three years in the hospital. He was formerly in the Army Medical Staff Corps. He always discharged his duties to my satisfaction. He was not in any monetary trouble so far as I know. I ordered the door of the room to be locked and telephoned to the Inspector of Police at No. 7 Police station. I was present at the post mortem examination on the 18th inst. As the cause of death was doubtful the contents of the stomach were handed over to the Analyst. If chloral was found in the stomach more must have been absorbed before death. Deceased had been dead quite an hour when I saw the body. Eighty grains of chloral would be a poisonous dose for the average man. Thirty grains has been known to prove fatal. As far as I know deceased was of temperate habits. He had been acting as dispenser for eighteen months during the absence of Mr. Crowe on leave and had given every satisfaction in the discharge of his duties. He had been a dispenser in the Army

Medical Staff Corps. The drugs were in his charge.

Cheung Shun said—I am an attendant at the Government Civil Hospital. On the 17th inst., at 1 p.m., I saw deceased go into his dining room and I followed to attend on him at tiffin. He told me I might go as he would go to sleep. At 3.35 p.m. I took some clothing into deceased's room and found him lying on his back on the sofa. There was a tumbler on the dining room table. I had not heard the deceased complain that day. He breakfasted as usual at 8.45 in the morning.

Robert Chapman said—I am the steward at the Government Civil Hospital. On the 17th, at 6.30 p.m., I was called by the last witness to see Mr. Feltham. In deceased's right hand was a partly smoked cigarette; near his left hand was a mirror. I sent for the doctor at once. As far as I know he was of temperate habits. I never saw him under the influence of liquor. I always understood that he was not hard pushed for money. If he did do it I cannot assign any reason for his poisoning himself.

H. B. Clough said—I am the manager and secretary of the New Club. I have known the deceased about six months. He confided all his private affairs to me. We were bosom friends. He was 28 years of age. I telephoned in reply to deceased's telephone on the morning of the 17th inst. that I had got tickets for him for the theatre. He telephoned back in the morning to say that he would not be down till after tiffin. He did not come and I sent the tickets up to him. I last saw deceased alive at 8.30 p.m. on the 16th inst. He was then in bed and was in his usual spirits. The reason he gave for being so early in bed was that he had nothing else to do. He was not in monetary difficulties and I think he had money in the bank. Lately he has been rather dejected. He had a sweetheart in England and about three months ago the engagement was broken. It was since then that I noticed the dejection.

The inquiry was then adjourned until the following morning at 11.30.

Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, said—On March 18th I received from Dr. Lawson the contents of the stomach of the deceased. It measured six ounces. I found that it contained nineteen grains of chloral and one third of a grain of morphine. On the same day I received from Inspector Macdonald a number of exhibits. Powder marked No. 5 consisted of particles of powder which were morphine and hydro-chlorine. The powder was found in a paper in the deceased's bedroom. The tumbler marked No. 9 contained a few drops of liquid in which chloral was present. I found nothing in the other exhibits. Deceased was my assistant. On the morning of the 17th inst. I received the following note:—"I have had a bad night and have overslept myself. I will be in soon. Yours, A. F." I tore the note up and threw the pieces into the waste paper basket, but when I heard of his death I tried to recover the pieces. I found only two and I added the missing words myself in red ink. He came in to me shortly after I received the note and said he was suffering very badly from neuralgia and had a very great pain in the left side of his head. He had, he said, obtained no sleep until 5.30 that morning. I told him he need not trouble to do any work unless he wished. I last saw him alive at 12 o'clock that morning, when he appeared to be in very great pain. He could help himself to chloral if he liked. He was well acquainted with the properties of drugs. For five weeks before his death he appeared to be greatly depressed. He said that he had received bad news by the mail, the nature of which was such that it could not be mentioned. He gained his usual spirits in a few days. Within a week of his decease he seemed to me to be quieter than usual.

Dr. J. A. Lawson said—I examined the body of the deceased on the 18th inst. His stomach was considerably inflamed. The pancreas was also acutely inflamed and there was a haemorrhagic extravasation at the head of it, which reached down to the left kidney. There was no valvular disease of the heart. There were remains of pleurisy in the left lung. The other organs were normal. The condition I have described could not have been caused by chloral; it likewise could not have

been caused by morphia. If he took the chloral just before he was last seen alive I do not think he could have taken more than 30 grains of chloral. I do not think he absorbed more than was found in the stomach, as the absorbing power of the stomach must have been seriously impaired by the inflammation, which must have been going on for at least 24 hours. The cause of death was syncope in acute gastritis and acute pancreatitis, possibly accelerated by a large medicinal dose of chloral. He would certainly feel depressed; his condition was quite sufficient to account for depression. The chloral itself would not be sufficient to cause death, nor could it have produced the appearances I have described.

The Magistrate—The finding is in accordance with the medical evidence, that the cause of death was syncope in acute gastritis and acute pancreatitis.

#### CHINA SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The twentieth annual general meeting of the shareholders in the China Sugar Refining Company, Limited, was held on Wednesday in the Offices of the General Agents, Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co. Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided, and there were also present:—Hon. E. R. Belilos, Messrs F. A. Gomes, C. S. Sharp, D. Gubbay and A. Haupt (Consulting Committee), G. Murray Bain, F. Henderson, R. C. Wilcox, J. McGregor Forbes, K. McK. Ross, D. Landale, W. G. Winterburn, G. C. C. Master, A. Ross, B. Layton, J. R. Michael, Dr. Brown, J. Barton (Secretary), Ho Fook, Ho Tung, L. Wang, etc.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts of this Company, which have been in your hands for some days, and which you will doubtless be content to consider as read, I take the opportunity of congratulating shareholders on the highly satisfactory nature of the result of the year's working as indicated therein. We have been fortunate throughout the greater part of the period under review in our purchases of Raw Sugar, not only in acquiring supplies at favourable opportunities, but also in financing for a large proportion of the shipments from Java prior to the decline in sterling exchange rates that set in and continued during the latter months of 1897. Exchange fluctuations have further favoured us in the benefits we derive from the advance in local rates between this and Japan (one of our chief outlets), by reason of the latter country adopting a Gold Standard. Although the introduction of this altered standard did not become an accomplished fact until October, its effect had been anticipated, and we benefited from it several months previously. The Refinery was kept fully occupied during the year, and the outturn exceeds any preceding record, a result which in itself is a satisfactory indication of the establishment being efficiently maintained and organised by a capable and energetic staff. In China, statistics show that the demand for refined sugars continue to slowly but steadily increase, and with the expected early opening up of internal waterways in that vast Empire, this growing consumption may confidently be expected to spread. The departure proposed by the General Agents and Consulting Committee of transferring to equalization of dividends fund the substantial sum of \$140,000 should recommend itself to investors, inasmuch as this policy will assist in maintaining steady returns in the future, and tend to do away with the irregularity which has hitherto attached to the dividends derived from this industry. In connection with Property Account, which of course includes Buildings and Machinery, we feel confident that the policy we continue of writing down the book value and strengthening the position of the Company will recommend itself to shareholders. The water supply is now ample even during the dry season, and the purchase of the Sookumpoo site, and other arrangements entered into some two years ago at small cost, in order to ensure that supply, have proved serviceable acquisitions. With regard to the current year, the margin on refining has so far continued satisfactory, and at present future prospects appear favourable. That, gentlemen, is all

that occurs to me to refer to, but I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability any questions that shareholders may desire to ask. (Applause.)

Mr. MICHAEL—In view of the splendid report laid before us of the continued prosperity of the Company, I think we would be failing in our duty not to recognise the services of the staff at the works and the office. We have got an example of this in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, who in their prosperity always remember their staff, and allow them a bonus. I beg, therefore, that a bonus—which would be a deserving one—of one month's pay be given. I hope somebody will get up and second that.

The CHAIRMAN—I would suggest that you had better leave that question until the next meeting of the Consulting Committee, when I will bring it before them for consideration.

Mr. MICHAEL—if you take it into consideration, I am quite satisfied.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no further remarks, I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. WILCOX—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have to congratulate the general agents on the very satisfactory report placed before us to-day, and the shareholders generally on the large dividend proposed and the improved prospects of the Company. I think great credit is due to the foresight and judgment displayed by the management in producing these excellent results. I am especially glad to notice the proposal to form a reserve equalization of dividends fund, to which as a commencement a substantial sum of \$140,000 has been transferred. I am strongly of opinion that all industrial undertakings should possess a reserve fund for this purpose, and the China Sugar Refining Company is certainly no exception. It has had its up and downs, its fat years and lean years, as we all know, and we have had to rejoice in dividends of no less than 24 per cent. on one occasion, and we have on other occasions been sent empty away. I should like the latter contingency to be averted in the future, and I hope therefore that the reserve for the equalization of dividends will be augmented whenever possible. With these remarks, I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

Carried.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN—Gentlemen, I beg to propose that Messrs. E. R. Belilius, F. A. Gomes, C. S. Sharp, D. Gubbay and A. Haupt be re-elected to the Consulting Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL seconded.

Carried.

Mr. K. MCK. Ross proposed that Messrs. Thos. Arnold and Fullerton Henderson be elected auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. LAYTON seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, that concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be sent out to-morrow.

#### THE LUZON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixteenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders of the above company was held at the offices of the general agents, on Wednesday. Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided and there were also present Messrs. J. H. Lewis, D. Gillies (Consulting Committee), J. H. Cox, Hon. E. R. Belilius, Ho Tung, K. MCK. Ross, Barlow, D. Landale, A. R. Ezekiel, J. Barton (Secretary,) and others.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission we will, as usual, take the report and accounts which have now been in your hands some days as read. The course of business during the year was I regret to say uncertain and chequered, as we were beset with many difficulties. In consequence of an entire absence of demand for Spain, the refinery was shut down during January and part of February, but during the next five months sales improved considerably, and there seemed a reasonable prospect that the results of the year would not be disappointing. But, gentlemen, this more cheerful prospect was not to be continued, for in August raw sugar in the Philippines became scarce and dearer, and demand for Spain simultaneously fell off to such an extent, that it again became prudent to close our refinery for over

two months, thus practically reducing our working year to one of 8 months. I should be very pleased if I could hold out hopes that the results of the current year promised well, but I cannot disguise from you the fact that the outlook is not at the moment a cheerful one. Owing to the low price and large production of beet sugar in Europe brought about by the bounty system, the demand for the company's products in Spain is undoubtedly falling off, and it is evident that in the immediate future we shall have to depend largely upon local sales of the refinery's production in Manila, and other Eastern markets. To enable us to sell with profit in markets other than Manila, our raw sugar must be cheap, but unfortunately at present, owing to an outbreak of cattle disease in the Philippine Islands, the raw material has advanced in value as not only is actual production interfered with, but transport difficult. A further cause for anxiety is the recent renewal of the outbreak against the Spanish authorities in the Luzon Province, which threatens to assume serious proportions, and is dislocating all business. In this connection, I may mention, however, that during the last outbreak the rebels scupulously respected the property of the Company, although fighting was going on in its immediate vicinity, and I can only hope that they will continue to do so. From what I have said you will realise that prospects at the moment are not encouraging, but you may rest assured that no effort will be spared to endeavour to bring about a better state of things. Before moving the adoption of the report I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There being no question the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. BELILIOS seconded.

Carried.

Mr. COX proposed that Messrs. J. H. Lewis and D. Gillies be re-appointed to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. HO TUNG seconded.

Carried.

Proposed by Mr. BARLOW and seconded by Mr. HO TUNG that Mr. Thomas Arnold be re-elected auditor.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, this concludes the business. Dividend warrants will be sent out to-morrow morning.

#### CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the China Fire Insurance Company, Limited, was held at the offices of the Company on Monday at noon. Mr. N. A. Siebs presided, and there were also present—Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, C. Beurmann, C. S. Sharp, A. Haupt, W. Gubbay (Directors), J. B. Coughtrie (Secretary), J. H. Cox, Wei A. Yuk, A. Ross, D. R. Crawford, G. L. Tomlin, Chan Pat, and J. M. S. Alves.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the only business before you is the confirmation of certain resolutions passed at an extraordinary meeting of shareholders held on the 28th ult. Your directors are still unaware of a single expressed opinion adverse to those resolutions, which I now proceed to read as follows:—

That Articles Nos. 53 and 122 of the Articles of Association of the Company be altered by eliminating therefrom the word "February" and substituting therefor the word "March."

That Article No. 7 be altered by inserting the words "or Extra Reserve Fund" immediately after the word "Fund" in the sixth line of the said Article, and the words "and Extra Reserve Fund" immediately after the word "Fund" in the seventh line of the said Article.

That Article No. 121 be altered by inserting the words "and subject to the provisions of Articles 121A and 121B" immediately after the word "sum" and before the word "be" in the fourth line of such Article.

That the following Articles be inserted immediately after Article No. 121, and be numbered Articles 121A and 121B. 121A.—"Although the Reserve Fund may amount to the sum of one million dollars the Directors may nevertheless at their discretion from time to time appropriate a portion of the net income and profits earned by the Company in any one year to the

formation of an additional Reserve Fund, to be called 'Extra Reserve Fund.' 121B.—"The monies standing at the credit of the Extra Reserve Fund may be applicable for the equalization of dividends, and such monies, or some portion thereof, may, whenever the Directors shall think fit, be appropriated toward the equalization of dividends."

In conclusion the Chairman proposed the confirmation of these resolutions.

Mr. J. H. COX said he had much pleasure in seconding.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said that this concluded the business, and thanked those present for their attendance.

#### THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAM SHIP CO., LIMITED.

##### FIFTEENTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

On Monday morning the fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited, was held at the office of the General Managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes, & Co. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present Messrs. N. A. Siebs, J. H. Lewis (consulting committee), S. Babington, J. H. Cox, C. P. Karberg, and Fung Wah Chuen.

Mr. KARBERG read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been issued some time I will with your permission dispense with reading them now. We are glad to come before you again with a satisfactory statement of the year's business, the more satisfactory as the great increase in the price of coal which has taken place since we last met has swelled our working expenses considerably. Depreciation, which goes on whether we work at a profit or a loss, has been allowed for as before, and after putting a substantial sum aside as reserve we are able to recommend a dividend of 15 per cent. as against 12 per cent. this time last year. Turning to the accounts there is nothing in them I think that needs explaining, but I am pleased to say that after giving up the item of \$733.39 as a bad job we have at the last moment succeeded in recovering some \$600.00 of it, and here I might remark that considering we have always from \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00 outstanding in uncollected freights it speaks well for our supporters that we have so few bad debts.

The different sums making up the item of sundry creditors and sundry debtors are now all practically wiped off. Our surplus funds are all invested as you see and bring in a good return. As for this year, our earnings so far are quite satisfactory although we are threatened with a renewal of political troubles in the Philippines, and I fear with the example of Singapore before us that our old enemy quarantine is not far off. However, we have faced these difficulties before and overcome them and have no doubt we shall do so again. Before proceeding to move the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability any questions you may wish to ask.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. BABINGTON seconded.

Carried.

Mr. COX proposed that Messrs. D. Gillies, N. A. Siebs, J. H. Lewis, and R. Shewan be elected the Consulting Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr. FUNG WAH CHUEN seconded.

Carried.

Mr. SIEBS proposed that Messrs. J. H. Cox and T. Arnold be elected auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. LEWIS seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

Vice-Admiral Seymour made an inspection at the Naval Yard on Tuesday morning. While he was there a fire muster was ordered, and seeing the engines out an Indian gave the alarm to No. 2 Station. The firemen were soon brought on to the scene, and were considerably chagrined on finding that the alarm was a false one.

**GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.**

On Tuesday morning the ninth ordinary general meeting in connection with the above Company was held at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes, & Co. Mr. R. Shewan occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. J. Orange, Li Sing (Consulting Committee), G. Murray Bain, J. R. Michael, Fung Wa Chuen, W. S. Bailey, D. Gillies, Ho Tung, and F. J. V. Jorge (Secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, as you are all familiar with the contents of the report and accounts it is not necessary to read them now. The net profit is \$58,738.31, as against \$46,117.12 last year, but the dividend proposed is 25 per cent. on the old shares as against 7 per cent. last time. We are bound to put something to reserve in accordance with our Articles, so we have named the nominal sum of only \$1,000 for this purpose. The reason for this is that we find a strong feeling exists amongst the old shareholders that anything put aside for reserve, or carried forward to next year, would benefit the new shareholders to a greater extent than the old, and to allay this feeling and satisfy the old shareholders it is deemed best to devote, as far as possible, the whole profit to payment of dividend this year. Shareholders must, however, bear in mind that this is a very exceptional case, that our policy must be to build up a good reserve, and that anything approaching such a dividend need not be looked for again. Owing to the increased cost of coal our prices had to be raised accordingly. This no doubt had the effect of checking sales, but in any case I do not think we could have sold much more than we did, as our stock at the end of the year was only a moderate one though larger than the previous year's, which was much smaller. At Green Island the factory was kept steadily at work, and we managed to increase the production by about 8 per cent. on last year's, but although we continue our efforts in this direction I doubt if we shall manage to squeeze much more out of our present installation over there. We may be able to do a little better when the Schofer kiln is in full swing, but that process is still in the experimental stage and cannot yet be pronounced an undoubted success. As we anticipated we have had difficulty with the climate, quality of coal, &c., but these have been fairly well overcome, and so you can understand it is well worth all the trouble we have had if only to obtain a kiln which will burn coal at half the cost of our present fuel-coke. Our trouble at the present moment is, however, of another kind and arises from the bricks swelling and sticking in the top of the kiln instead of passing easily down to the fire below, but with a little more experience this will no doubt be got over too and we shall then have a very improved and economical kiln. I mention these details as some shareholders appear to think one has only to build a few kilns and start making cement right away. But it is one thing to build a kiln and another thing to get it to work properly, as was found in the case of the Hoffmann kiln. The Schofer kiln should, however, effect a great saving and it was not without carefully weighing the pros and cons that we decided to try it, nor have we so far any reason to regret our action. At Deep Water Bay the result has been disappointing, owing chiefly to the high price of coal. We have a new superintendent there now and other changes have been made in the staff there which we think will effect an improvement in the future. The site for the new works at Hòk Un is nearly all levelled and will, we think, be ready for building operations next month. A good part of the machinery has been ordered from home, but we do not expect to make another call of capital till say 30th June next. You will notice that 1,210 new shares have not been taken up by the old shareholders who were entitled to them, and as ample time has been given those shareholders to come forward, we now propose to proceed at once to forfeit these shares. In regard to the paragraph in last night's *China Mail* I can only say our Shanghai agents advise us that their tender was about 8 candereens per barrel lower than the one that was accepted. Before I move the

adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions from shareholders.

Mr. BAILEY—Do I understand from your report that this is an exceptional dividend paid on account of the old shareholders asking for the full benefit of the profit, because real investors would prefer very much a steady dividend to a fluctuating one?

The CHAIRMAN—The old shareholders said they would prefer to have all the dividend this year. Next year we shall have to put more to the reserve fund, so that you must not expect so large a dividend as 25 per cent. If there are no other questions I propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed. Will someone second it?

Mr. GILLIES—I have much pleasure in seconding it.

Carried.

Mr. BAIN proposed and Mr. BAILEY seconded the re-election of Messrs. Ewens, Orange, Li Sing, Chater, and MacEwen on the Consulting Committee.

Carried.

Mr. MICHAEL proposed and Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN seconded the re-election of Messrs. J. H. Cox and F. Henderson as auditors for 1898.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

**OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.**

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer *Guthrie*:

Mount Macdonald,

28th February 1898.

I have the honour to report that work at the mines is progressing in a satisfactory manner.

At the Eureka main shaft stoping is being carried on above the 150 and 200 feet levels where, as previously reported, there are large quantities of ore in sight.

At the 300 feet level the reef is being driven upon north and south. Here we have a reef 7 to 8 feet wide. Stone of the most promising character and shows gold. Have every confidence that as soon as level is opened up the yield from the battery will improve.

The sinking of the winze to connect the 200 feet with the 300 feet level has been resumed to-day and will be continued until the connection is made.

A fortnightly cleaning up at the battery on the 19th instant yielded 135 oz. 17 dwt. from 350 tons.

Everything in connection with mine and machinery in good order.

**THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.**

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager by steamer *Guthrie*:

Mount Macdonald,

28th February, 1898.

I have the honour to report on the Mines as follows:

Queen Mine.—The reef mentioned in my last report has been driven upon 10 feet north and varies from 2 to 4 feet in thickness. Although well mineralized have not found any gold as yet. It is a somewhat singular formation, being 4 feet thick at the bottom of the drive and 2 feet at the top, and tapering out as it goes up. There is no defined wall on the west side; consequently it is very hard to determine whether it is a continuation of the Queen reef or an entirely new formation. Should it be the latter, then the Queen is yet to the west, and in order to prove this, the cross-cut drive is being pushed on to the west of formation, this being the only safe course to adopt. We are now 8 feet west of formation. Another 10 or 12 feet will decide the question. Should the formation already passed through prove to be the continuation of the Queen, it would be advisable to sink the shaft an additional 50 feet, for several reasons. At the present we are evidently near the top of the formation, consequently if we drive upon it we will have no stopes above the drive. (2)

It is evident from what we can see already we will have a much larger formation 50 feet deeper. For these reasons alone it would be much more satisfactory to sink. It is more than possible that we have struck the lode in the very poorest part.

Balmoral Mine.—Crushed for Peel and party, 5½ tons; yield, 15 oz. 3 dwt. retorted gold. The Company in addition to royalty get one half. The ground from whence this was taken is too hard and the vein of stone too small and irregular to pay for mining it. Other parties are prospecting on their own account, subject to paying royalty to the Company. Contractors for Battery making fair progress.

**GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.**

The following report has been received from the Manager at the mines per steamer *Guthrie*:

Mount Macdonald, 26th February, 1898.

Great Eastern Shaft has reached a total depth of 141 feet or an addition of 11 feet during the last twelve days, including timbering of over 30 feet. This is a fine result for such a big shaft with hard ground to work in, and a credit to the three shifts employed there. The shaft is all timbered and laddered to the above depth.

The Prospecting Shaft is down to 95 feet with no particular features to report. The last twelve days' work is disappointingly slow, and I shall sink the remaining depth by contract.

Caledonian Main Shaft—I am pleased to be able to inform you that we have mastered the water sufficiently for the men to continue sinking, and although it has not all gone down, it will not be long before we have got rid of it completely.

The Zulu Shaft is down 99 feet, with nothing fresh to report. The water here is not very troublesome now.

**HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.****ANNUAL CARBINE COMPETITION.**

The sixth annual carbine competition in connection with the Hongkong Volunteer Corps commenced on Saturday last at Kowloon and will be resumed to-day. The weather was favourable and the shooting good. The following are the principal scores:

	200 H'cap.	yards.	Pts.	Total.
Capt. Sanders...	5444554	4	35	
Gr. R. Henderson...	4334453	7	33	
Sergt. Lammert	4455455	0	32	
Gr. Stewart ...	5554445	0	32	
Sergt. Crombie	4354453	3	31	
Gr. Swanston...	3945553	3	31	
Gr. Arthur ...	4334433	7	31	
Corpl. Shelton	5444445	0	30	
Sergt. Smyth...	4344555	0	30	
Corpl. Brown...	3554434	2	30	
Sgt.-Maj. Duncan...	5444334	3	30	
Gr. Aitken ...	5452334	3	30	
75 Men Competed.				

	400 H'cap.	yards.	Pts.	Total.
Gr. J. Hance ...	4545555	2	35	
Gr. Plummer ...	4553554	4	35	
Sgt.-Maj. Duncan ...	3554554	3	34	
Sgt. Smyth ...	5355555	0	33	
Gr. Deas ...	5534554	2	33	
Sgt. Lammert	5544545	0	32	
Gr. Gow ...	4555454	0	32	
Gr. Gilchrist ...	3455455	1	32	
Corpl. Rutter ...	3845555	2	32	
Gr. Donaldson ...	4525535	3	32	
Sgt. Hayward ...	5535445	0	31	
Gr. Stewart ...	5535553	0	31	
69 Men Competed.				

	500 H'cap.	yards.	Pts.	Total.
Corpl. Rutter ...	4555255	3	34	
Drummer Hart ...	5451453	3	33	
Lieut. Slade ...	4535533	5	33	
Gunner Cotton ...	5544245	3	32	
Sgt. Hayward ...	5555352	0	30	
Gunner Gilchrist ...	4425335	3	29	
Wilkinson ...	3355253	3	29	
Stewart ...	3444544	0	28	
Lieut. M'Donald ...	4454524	0	28	
Capt. Chapman ...	2525455	0	28	
Q. M. Sgt. Watling ...	3540255	4	28	
Bombr. Nobbs ...	2424524	5	28	
63 Men Competed.				

FIELD BATTERY CHAMPIONSHIP.				
	200	400	500	Total.
yards.	yards.	yards.	yards.	
Gunner Stewart	32	31	28	91
Corpl. Rutter	29	30	31	90
Sergt. Hayward	29	31	30	90
Drummer Hart	25	29	30	84
Gunner Gilchrist	26	31	26	83
Gunner Gow	29	32	22	83

MAXIM CORPS CHAMPIONSHIP.				
	200	400	500	Total.
yards.	yards.	yards.	yards.	
Sergt. Lammert	32	32	25	89
" Smyth	30	33	25	88
Corpl. Skelton	30	30	21	81
Sergt. Shepherd	29	31	19	79
Gunner Hornby	27	25	19	71
" Plummer	21	31	15	67

## H. K. V. C. CHAMPIONSHIP.

Gunner Stewart, Total 91.

## HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.—AGGREGATES.

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Grand Total.
	H. Pts. Tl.	H. Pts. Tl.	H. Pts. Tl.	
Corpl. Rutter	0	29	2	32
Gr. Stewart	0	32	0	31
Sgt. Hayward	0	29	0	31
Drummer Hart	2	27	1	30
Sgt. Lammert	0	32	0	32
Gr. Gilchrist	2	28	1	32
Sgt. Smyth	0	30	0	33
Sgt. Maj. Duncan	3	30	3	34
Corpl. Brown	2	30	1	30
Gr. Wilkinson	3	26	3	29
Gr. Swanston	3	31	4	28
Lieut. Slade	4	22	4	29
Gr. Gow	0	29	0	32
Gr. Deas	2	25	2	33
Gr. Donaldson	2	26	3	32
Q. M. S. Watling	3	28	4	27
Bombr. Nobbs	4	27	4	28
Gr. Sayer	7	27	7	31
Lieut. McDonald	0	26	0	28
Gr. Cotton	3	24	3	26

80 Entries.

## OPEN TO RECRUITS ONLY.

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Total.
	H. Pts. Tl.	H. Pts. Tl.	H. Pts. Tl.	
Gr. Baker	7	29	7	25
" Aitken	4	30	7	16
" Plinston	7	19	7	29
" A. H'phreys	7	24	7	27
" Toller	7	23	7	25
" Moore	7	27	7	16

## INSTRUCTOR'S COMPETITION.

	200	400	500	Tl.
	yds.	yds.	yds.	Tl.
Signalling-Instructor Sgt.				
Fitton, K.O.R.	25	27	19	17

## OPEN TO MEMBERS OF DRUM AND FIFE BAND.

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Total.
	H. Pts. Tl.	H. Pts. Tl.	H. Pts. Tl.	
Drummer Hart	2	27	1	30
D.-Corpl Brown	2	30	1	30
Bombr. Baker	0	28	0	25
Sgt.-Dr. Hayward	4	29	4	22

## OPEN TO SIGNALLERS AND TRUMPETERS.

	150	H'cap.	Total.
	yards.	Pts.	
Trumpeter Plinston	4332432	—	21
Sig. Abraham	3440004	—	15

## INTER-CORPS CHALLENGE CUP.—EIGHT MEN A-SIDE.

## Field Battery.

Gr. Stewart	...	...	...	91
Corpl. Rutter	...	...	...	90
Sgt. Hayward	...	...	...	90
Gr. Gow	...	...	...	83
Lieut. McDonald	...	...	...	81
Capt. Chapman	...	...	...	81
Corpl. Brown	...	...	...	78
Sgt.-Maj. Duncan	...	...	...	78
Total	...	...	...	672
Maxim Corps.	...	...	...	
Sgt. Lammert	...	...	...	89
Sgt. Smyth	...	...	...	88
Corpl. Skelton	...	...	...	81
Sgt. Shepherd	...	...	...	79
Gr. Hornby	...	...	...	71
Sgt. Crombie	...	...	...	64

Capt. Sanders	...	...	...	60
Gr. Brooke Smith	...	...	...	57
Total	...	...	...	589
Won by Field Battery by 83 Points.	...	...	...	

## OFFICERS' COMPETITION.

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	Grand Total.
	H. Pts. Tl.	H. Pts. Tl.	H. Pts. Tl.	
Lieut. Slade	4	18	4	25
" Macdonald	0	26	0	28
Capt. Chapman	0	28	0	25
Capt. Sanders	4	31	4	13

## CRICKET.

## HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB V. NAVY.

This match was begun on Saturday and concluded on Monday in a win for the club by ten wickets. The wicket was anything but satisfactory and accounted for the curious scoring. Both sides had whipped up a strong eleven and, winning the toss, the navy batted first to the bowling of Vallings and Lethbridge. From the very beginning none of the batsmen were at home and the score only reached 89 a paltry one for so strong a batting side, though it must be admitted that the bowlers were in first class fettle. The club's innings started auspiciously, the first wicket putting on 35 runs, but after this, the wickets fell rapidly, and seven had fallen for 70 before affairs altered for the better. The effort ultimately resulted in 171 being totalled, Campbell again playing a splendid not out innings and carrying his bat right through for 81. He was missed before scoring, but afterwards played perfect cricket. Smith and Langhorne were the only other notable scorers. The navy started their second innings at 4.30 p.m., but Smith and Lawson on this occasion proved too much for them and when stumps were drawn seven wickets had fallen for 53. On resuming yesterday Lawson quickly bowled Shelford and Hastings, but an unexpected stand by Barton and Dix necessitated the club going to the wickets for a second time, the runs being knocked up off two overs of Shelford, without the loss of a wicket.

Appended are scores and bowling analysis:

	NAVY.	
First Innings.	Second Innings.	
Lt. Perry-Ayscough, b		
Vallings	13 c Campbell, b Lawson	13
Mr. Bedwell, b Vallings	10 b Lawson	10
Lt. Gillett, c Campbell, b		
Vallings	10 b Sercombe Smith	3
Mr. Allison, b Lethbridge		

	Meteor	13
Ladybird	3 47 56 first 10	" * 73
Dart	3 49 50 2nd 4	" * 32
Payne	3 51 33 3rd 1	" * 51

\* Subject to an enquiry.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

### THE CHINESE CUSTOMS AND THE NAVY LEAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR.—I very much regret to note from your leading article of to-day that the letter from myself, as Secretary of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League, to the Head Office with reference to the extension of the boundaries of this colony should have been liable to misinterpretation so far as the Chinese Customs revenue is concerned.

I am entirely in accord with you when you say:—"The rectification of the frontier is required for defensive purposes, not for the facilitation of smuggling, and my only difficulty consists in endeavouring to ascertain how anything contained in the above letter could have been supposed to constitute a plea in favour of the facilitation of smuggling."

Any such plea would not only be absurdly irrelevant to the question of the rectification of our frontier for defensive purposes, but would also, as you justly remark, be "calculated to prejudice the proposal in the eyes of the Chinese Government."

Such an idea as repudiating the Chefoo Convention was not entertained for a moment.

All that was intended was to point out that, from a political point of view, the maintenance and working of the Chinese Customs Service here, as at present organized, is calculated to give rise to erroneous misconceptions in the Chinese mind and to entail loss of national prestige to us.

The fact that the present system works as smoothly as it does speaks volumes for the tact and discretion of the Commissioners of Customs whom we have had here.

Apologizing for the length of this letter,—I am, dear sir, your faithfully,

HENRY E. POLLOCK.

18, Bank Buildings,  
Hongkong, 21st March, 1898.

### AN ENGLISH JOURNALIST EXPELLED FROM SIAM.

A decree was issued by the Government of Siam on the 11th March requiring Mr. J. J. Lillie, editor and proprietor of the *Siam Free Press*, to leave the country within seven days from that date, and, in default of his doing so, ordering his expulsion. Acting under instructions from the home Government, the British Minister has withdrawn British protection from Mr. Lillie, and the course adopted by the Siamese Government is said to have received the approval of the British Government in advance, and might have been taken some time ago.

Mr. Lillie in his writings has been violently anti-Siamese, not only in his own paper, but in telegrams and correspondence despatched to journals elsewhere. His expulsion was finally determined upon, it would appear from the statements of the other local papers, in consequence of his tendering a telegram for transmission stating that Siam had sent an armed force to suppress a rebellion in Battambang. The statement, it is alleged, is untrue, and was calculated to cause complications with France, the treaty with that Power prohibiting the maintenance of any armed force by Siam in Battambang.

Mr. Lillie will no doubt contest the legality of his expulsion and the withdrawal from him of British protection.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 12th March says:—A tiger measuring 7½ feet in length and weighing 210 lbs., was brought down from Kulang last week and was sold for \$80. It had been killed by one of the trap guns. The native hunters report having seen a very old tiger, nearly white with age they say. Although remarkably wily they hope to bag him before long.

### PAYMENT OF THE INDEMNITY POSTPONED.

The following official telegram from Peking has been received at Shanghai:—"Owing to the financial embarrassments of the Central Government it has been found impossible to pay the Japanese Indemnity this year as formally agreed to between our respective countries Japan, on the other hand, to show her true friendship to China, has forbore from pressing for the Indemnity and a new agreement has been signed extending the payment of the said Indemnity for another five years."—*N. C. Daily News.*

### CANTON NOTES.

#### [FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

Rice being so dear, the directors of the various charitable institutions have raised subscriptions to the amount of over two hundred thousand taels and borrowed one hundred and fifty thousand taels from the Government Treasury to buy rice from Kwangsi Province and Chan Chuen, where the grain is most abundant. At first rice was exposed for sale at the rate of a dollar for forty catties at various places in the city, under the charge of lukongs, but as so many poor people crowded together to buy it only the strong could avail themselves of it, the women and the weak being unable to press through the crowd, and besides this some children whom their parents lost hold of during the struggle were kidnapped by criminals, while many people who lost their footing were badly injured by being trampled underfoot. The directors of the charitable institutions, seeing the danger of this, have adopted another plan. They now distribute tickets through the tipos to poor families authorising them to buy rice from the charitable institutions daily.

Some days ago a plot was concocted by a gang of robbers to pirate a junk running between Szkiu and Canton. About ten robbers boarded the junk as passengers, but when the craft was on the voyage the master conceived a great suspicion that he had robbers on board as passengers, and he nailed up the hold in which they were, so that they could do nothing. When the junk was about an hour's sail from Canton, a long boat containing robbers rowed towards her. The junk at once fired on the boat, and the robbers, seeing that the opportunity was not favourable, quickly rowed away, two of them being wounded by bullets from the junk. The junk then proceeded on her voyage, and when she had nearly arrived at her destination a band of about a hundred robbers were seen standing on shore to meet her. The master of the junk, who was very careful all the way, at once directed his course to another place, where the passengers were all landed.

Owing to no rain having fallen for so long a time, and fearing that the crops would be destroyed, the Provincial Treasurer, the Provincial Judge, and the Grain Commissioner, seeing that the prayers for rain made by the local Magistrates have not been favourably replied to, have appointed a day to go to the temple of the gods of the sea to pray for rain themselves. It is a rule that the low officers are to pray first, then the higher officers, and the last of all is the Viceroy.

On the 16th instant a gang of about eight robbers made an attack on the village of Chabin, in Namhoi district. They tied up all the Lukongs and eleven hours were looted. The inhabitants of the village, knowing that the village was not safe, did not store any of their valuables there, so that the booty carried away by the robbers amounted to a very small sum.

### HONGKONG.

No rain has fallen for a considerable period and as there is a great scarcity of rice in Kwangtung the Chinese have been praying earnestly for a heavy downpour. Prince Henry of Prussia is likely to remain in the colony another ten days as his ship, the *Deutschland*, will not be ready for sea until the 5th April. He went to Swatow on Tuesday and returned yesterday morning, and in the afternoon he played in a polo match. The Criminal Sessions opened on the 18th inst., the most important case being one in which seven men were convicted of being concerned in an armed robbery. On Monday a student ap-

peal at the Government Civil Hospital was committed for trial on a charge of obtaining \$170 from a Chinese doctor by false pretences. On Monday afternoon Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice) delivered a most interesting address on the occasion of the presentation of prizes to the successful candidates in the London College of Music Examination. The inquests relating to the deaths of the secretary and manager of the New Club and the wardmaster at the Government Civil Hospital have been concluded. At a meeting of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society on Wednesday Commodore Holland read a most interesting paper on the Sun. The Sanitary Board held an important meeting on Thursday. During the week the shareholders in the following companies met:—China Fire Insurance Co., China and Manila Steamship Co., Green Island Cement Co., China Sugar Refining Co., Luzon Sugar Refining Co.

The appointment of Mr. C. W. Duggan as a Justice of the Peace is gazetted.

There were 2,928 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 215 were Europeans.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 33.3, and for the Chinese community 22.

On Saturday afternoon H.M.S. *Centurion* met the G. Company, King's Own Regiment, in the semi-final of the football challenge shield. The soldiers won by six goals to nothing.

The following telegram has been received by the Government:—"Saigon, 21st March, 1898. Secretary, Hongkong. Nine days' quarantine on arrivals from Hongkong. CONSUL."

The first Gymkhana of the season will be held on Saturday, 16th April (weather permitting). The programme will shortly be out. It consists of six events, all races, including a steeplechase.

The following telegram has been received by the Government from H.B.M.'s Minister to Japan:—"Tokio, 17th March, 1898. Governor, Hongkong. Medical inspection against arrivals from Hongkong and China ports. SATOW."

At a meeting of the Haiphong Sanitary Board it was decided that the nine days' quarantine on arrivals from Hongkong should be applied only to the passengers, who will be detained in the Lazarette, pratique being granted to the vessel and cargo.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Found in Hongkong Club, per  
C. H. Grace Esq. .... \$5.00

Dr. U I Kai, the house surgeon of the Alice Memorial Hospital, died from plague on Thursday morning. The deceased gentleman was highly esteemed by all who knew him and sincere regret is felt at his sad death. He leaves a widow and five children. Dr. U I Kai was a Christian and a member of St. Stephen's Church. He received his medical training in the Government Civil Hospital and the College of Medicine for Chinese and was appointed house surgeon at the Alice Memorial Hospital last year.

A long report by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., and Rev. T. W. Pearce, the examiners appointed by the Governing Body of Queen's College, is published in Saturday's *Gazette*. The following boys are recommended for scholarships:—Morrison Senior, C. H. Lee; Morrison Junior, Hung Hing Kam; Stewart, Lo Punn Fai; Belilos Senior, C. H. Lee and C. B. Hayward; Belilos Junior, Wong Tak Kwong. The concluding paragraph of the report is as follows:—"In the above remarks, we have tried to make a fair criticism of the work as it was presented to us, and if we have been obliged to censure some of the work we would not have it forgotten that there is much which we have praised. In almost all classes the work of many boys was distinctly satisfactory, and we are of opinion that there has been a general improvement in most subjects during the past two years. We strongly recommend the increased study of the English language, and, as far as possible, under English masters. Believing that the large number of admissions during the past year has been chiefly due to an increasing desire on the part of the Chinese to receive an English education, we trust that the College will be fully able to meet this demand."

At a meeting of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong, held on Friday evening, an interesting paper was read by Capt. G. C. Anderson on "The Corrosion of Iron and Steel and its Cause." Mr. W. Ramsay occupied the chair. After the reading of the paper a discussion was opened by Mr. R. Mitchell and continued by Messrs. Jack, Bailey, Sinclair, Bain, and Ramsay.

A notification is published in the *Gazette* authorising the purchase of the property known as "The Pines" by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China as a residence for its Hongkong Manager. The Bank's Charter prohibits the holding of landed property except such as may be officially recognised as necessary for the purpose of carrying on the business of the Bank. The purchase of "The Pines" is so recognised.

Captain Hodges, of the Douglas steamer, *Formosa*, which arrived from Tamsui and Amoy, reports that the German steamer *Cosmopolit*, from Hongkong to Japan, had her high pressure cylinder blown off, about thirty miles from Amoy, and was taken in tow by the French mail steamer. After towing for an hour or so, the *Cosmopolit*'s windlass and foremast, to which the tow rope was made fast, were pulled out, and the mail steamer then proceeded on her voyage. The disabled steamer drifted in near the Chau Chot Rocks and anchored. From that point she communicated with Amoy and was towed in to that port by three launches.

A house coolie named Faug Su was charged at the Police Court on Monday with stealing \$250, belonging to Mr. G. W. F. Playfair, Manager of the National Bank of China. The offence was committed as long ago as the 4th August, 1895, when Mr. and Mrs. Playfair went to Stonecutter's Island on a bathing picnic. When they returned Mr. Playfair found that the money had been stolen from an unlocked drawer in Mrs. Playfair's dressing table. The coolie had absconded and he was not arrested until last Saturday, when a Chinese constable who made the enquiries into the case three years ago recognized the thief in Graham Street. The prisoner admitted his guilt and was sent to gaol for six months with hard labour.

At the Police Court on Monday two coolies were charged with unlawfully throwing into the harbour to prevent seizure a quantity of coal reasonably suspected to have been part of the cargo of a ship or boat lying in the harbour, and another coolie was charged with being an accessory in the offence. On Sunday morning a Chinese police constable saw a boat lying along the Praya at Bowrington with some coal on board. The first and second prisoners were on board the boat and on seeing the constable they rowed the boat away. The third prisoner was on the Praya and he called out to the two men in the boat "Throw the coal overboard." The coal was then thrown overboard, and the three men were arrested. They were each fined \$50, or two months hard labour.

A Parliamentary paper has been issued, illustrating in detail the plans of works to be carried out at Dover, Gibraltar, and Hongkong, in accordance with the Naval Works Bill, 1897. Until now the public have only been enlightened with merest outlines of the scheme, but in the return just published the whole plan of these truly great works can be followed in detail. The *London and China Express* reproduces the plan that refers to Hongkong. The area of the present Naval Yard is 4½ acres, and this is to be increased to 28 acres, the additional 23½ acres being made up as follows:—Tidal basin 5½ acres, North Barracks 3½ acres, Commissariat Buildings 1½ acres, and Reclamation 12½ acres. A part of Sharp's Buildings is, with the present Commissariat Buildings, to be included in the Naval Yard, and the other portion is to be handed over to the War Department. There is a large reclamation shown extending in front of Wellington Barracks and the Arsenal Yard to Arsenal Street. This reclamation is given to the War Department in exchange for the foreshore of North Barracks and the Commissariat establishment and loss by widening Queen's Road and Arsenal Street.

On Friday Commander Hastings fined Messrs. E. S. Joseph and F. Smyth each \$1 for neglecting to obey a summons calling upon them to serve on a Coroner's jury. The defence was pressure of business.

On Saturday Commander W. C. H. Hastings sentenced a ricksha coolie to three months' imprisonment for attempting to defraud Sapper Booty, R.E. The prosecutor gave the prisoner a sound British dollar, and after giving the necessary change the prisoner produced a counterfeit Japanese yen and endeavoured to make out that the prosecutor had given it to him. This is a very old dodge and it is hoped that the sentence will act as a warning to chair and ricksha coolies.

At the Police Court on Thursday Hwan Lak, a bricklayer, was sentenced to 28 days' hard labour for stealing a leather strap of the value of one shilling and sixpence, the property of the Crown. At about half-past four on Tuesday afternoon Private Pigden, of the King's Own Regiment, saw defendant in possession of the strap in the Victoria Barracks, where he was working for the engineers, and seeing that it was the property of the Government he took it from him. Defendant, in answer to the Magistrate, said he bought the strap from somebody.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The French cruiser *Duguay Trouin* arrived at Manila on the 13th March from Peru and Honolulu.

The *Powerful* arrived at Nagasaki on the 15th March. Owing to her great length, she did not berth in the harbour proper, as this would interfere with the moorings of merchant vessels.

A story, for the veracity of which I cannot vouch, says "The Moralist" of the *Straits Times*, but which may be worth re-telling, is related in connection with our late visitors the Russian cruisers, *Navarin* and *Sissoi Veliky*. A wellknown official resident of Singapore, whose name is—no matter—made a private visit to one of the cruisers. On reaching the deck, he was accosted by a burly Russian petty officer, who demanded in broken English, "Wat you want, Sir?" "Oh, I have just come to make a call," replied the other. "Coal!" repeated the Russian with a self-satisfied smile. "Ve want no coal. Ve got all zer coal ve want at Penang. So, bon jour, Monsieur, and be tamned to your coal!" So saying, he walked away, leaving the mystified official in a state of bewilderment. It is said that it took the gentleman the rest of the day to find out the cause of the Russian's mistake.

#### COMMERCIAL.

##### TEA.

##### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	5,887,884	6,277,746
Shanghai and Hankow	14,058,439	17,809,181
Foochow	12,319,891	12,518,863
Amoy	685,651	589,478
	32,912,265	37,195,277

##### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	18,823,511	18,244,121
Amoy	15,861,506	19,022,415
Foochow	7,516,903	11,405,219
	42,201,920	48,671,758

##### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	19,462,293	22,941,123

##### EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	26,730,512	27,565,583
Kobe	15,776,817	11,961,219
	42,516,329	42,526,802

#### SILK.

SHANGHAI, 2<sup>nd</sup> March.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkhill & Sons' Circular).—London telegrams quote Blue Elephant 11/-, market firm; Gold Kiling are quoted from Lyons at Fea. 27.75. Raw Silk.—Another quiet week has to be chronicled, and no change in the market to report. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, March 12th to 18th: 191 bales White Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—Nothing doing. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 4,873 bales to America, 3,351 bales to the Continent, 47 bales to Japan and 23 bales to London. Waste Silk.—Settlements, which are small, are chiefly in Tussah Wastes, consisting of 100 piculs Szechuan Lig't Tussah at Tls. 24.25 and 200 piculs Filature Tussah 50 per cent. I and 50 per cent. II at Tls. 22.75.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent.; Exchange 2/6; Freight Tls. 7.45 per bale:

	Tls.	Stl.
	per picl.	per lb.
Meeyang, White	330	7.34
Szechuan Tussah Raw	205	4.8
	1897-98. 1896-97.	1895-96
Settlements for this mail	about 100	3,000
" season in }	64,600	57,500
" cluding forward contracts }	6,000	5,500
Stock §	6,000	5,500
Total Arrivals including }	70,600	63,000
Steam Filatures	1894-95. 1893-94. 1892-93.	1894-95. 1893-94. 1892-93.
Settlements for this mail	about 1,500	1,500
" season in }	64,500	65,500
" cluding forward contracts }	5,000	6,750
Stock §	5,000	3,500
Total Arrivals including }	68,500	72,250
Steam Filatures	§ Including old Silk.	72,500

#### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shantung	10,616	5,084
Canton	10,948	3,350
Yokohama	31,851	17,277
	52,376	25,711

#### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	45,826	42,442
Canton	20,315	20,481
Yokohama	18,063	16,376
	84,209	79,890

#### CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 25<sup>th</sup> March.—There is little change in this market to be reported. Quotations for Formosa are \$15.50 to \$16.00. Sales, 250 picul.

#### SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 25<sup>th</sup> March.—The market continues weak and prices are declining. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.32 to 7.35 per picl. do. 2. White... 7.00 to 7.04 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.89 to 4.92 " do. 2. Brown... 4.81 to 4.84 " Sato, No. 1, White... 7.27 to 7.30 " do. 2. White... 6.92 to 6.95 " Sato, No. 1, Brown... 4.85 to 4.88 " do. 2. Brown... 4.76 to 4.79 " Foochow Sugar Candy... 11.35 to 11.40 " Shekloong " 10.70 to 10.75 "

#### MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Lyderhorn*, sailed on the 5<sup>th</sup> March. For New York:—3,390 rolls matting, 1,460 packages merchandise, 1,650 boxes and 1,000 bales cassia, 93 cases chinaware, 198 packages firecrackers, 25 cases preserved ginger, 15 cases nut oil, and 10 cases vermillion.

Per German steamer *Hertha*, sailed on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. From Hongkong for Naples:—7 cases fans. For Havre:—79 cases paper, 58 bales canes, 45 boxes camphor, 33 cases chinaware, 25 boxes staraniseed, 25 cases blackwoodware, 23 bales split bamboo, 19 bales feathers, 18 cases human hair, 5 cases lacquered ware, and 5 cases essential oil. For Havre option Hamburg:—50 bales canes, 50 cases cassia, and 10 cases bristles. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—507 cases camphor, 45 cases cassia oil, and 20 cases essential oil. For Hamburg:—3,600 bags spentchar, 1,186 cases camphor, 716 bales canes, 583 bales feathers, 114 bales rattan-core, 500 cases broken cassia, 82 packages crackers, 60 bales rattan shavings, 50 casks ginger, 36 rolls matting, 35 bales rattanware, 18 packages sundries, 18 cases essential oil, 15 cases private effects, 10 cases fans, 7 cases paper,

5 casks wood oil, 3 cases chinaware, 3 cases bamboo ware, 3 cases chinaware, and 3 cases Chinaink. For Lisbon:—29 packages China and lacquered ware. For Oporto:—5 cases Chinaware.

Per steamer *Prometheus*, sailed on the 14th March. For London:—50 cases essential oil, 56 cases cassia, 19 cases cigars, 34 cases China ware, 19 cases blackwoodware, 11 cases curios, 113 cases bristles, 9 cases pictures, 11 cases empty iron cylinders, 30 cases and 200 casks preserves, 28 bales feathers, 90 bales canes, and 13 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—75 bales waste silk. For London and/or Hamburg:—80 cases bristles. For Liverpool:—2 cases cigars, 2 cases curios, 250 bales hemp, and 100 bales matting. For Glasgow:—1 case curios.

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—Bengal.—There has been a further decline in rates owing to an improvement in the exchange on India. New Patna closes at \$6974. Old Patna at \$7064. New Benares at \$695, and Old Benares at \$6974.

Malwa.—A considerable advance has taken place in prices during the past week in consequence of small stocks. New has been exhausted from the market. Quotations for other descriptions are as follows:—

New (2/3 yrs.) \$850 with allowance to 3 catties  
" (4/5 " ) \$890 " of 1/2 catty  
" (6/7 " ) \$920 " of 0 to 1 1/2 "  
" (8/9 " ) \$950 " of 0 to 1 1/2 "

Persian.—There has been a lull in business, and prices accordingly have slightly weakened. Late's figures are \$490 to \$330 for Oily and \$540 to \$660 for Paper wrapped, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
DATE,	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 19	705	710	700	702 1/2	—	—
Mar. 20	705	710	700	702 1/2	—	—
Mar. 21	702 1/2	707 1/2	697 1/2	702 1/2	—	—
Mar. 22	700	707 1/2	697 1/2	700	—	—
Mar. 23	700	707 1/2	697 1/2	700	—	—
Mar. 24	700	707 1/2	695	697 1/2	—	—
Mar. 25	697 1/2	706 1/2	695	697 1/2	—	—

850/890/920/950 \$

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—Prices are still advancing and though arrivals are heavy they can scarcely keep pace with the demand. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.58 to 3.62
" Round, good quality	3.95 to 3.98
" Long	4.15 to 4.20
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	3.65 to 3.70
" Garden	4.25 to 4.30
" White	5.02 to 5.07
" Fine Cargo	5.17 to 5.23

## COALS.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—Sales of Cardiff spot cargo at \$32 and to arrive 3,000 tons solid at \$31 for early arrival. February shipment per sailer, sales at \$19 1/2. Market steady. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$19.00 to 31.00 ex ship, steady
Australian	\$11.00 to 13.00 ex ship, steady
Miiki Lump	10.50 to 10.75, and Small
Moji Lump	7.75 to 10.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay Lump	9.00 to —
Hongay Dust	4.80 to —
Briquettes	10.00 to —

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales No. 6 at \$78.50, 50 bales No. 8 at \$78, 1,080 bales No. 10 at \$77 to \$90.50, 750 bales No. 12 at \$84.25 to \$91, 150 bales No. 16 at \$93 to \$96, 1,425 bales No. 20 at \$97 to \$103. Grey Shirts.—1,200 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.60. White Shirts.—250 pieces F. B. 1 at \$5.80, 750 pieces gold Dragon at \$5.37 1/2, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.52 1/2, 250 pieces X. 8 at \$4.45, 250 pieces X. 9 at \$4.75, 300 pieces E. K. at \$5.97 1/2. Victoria Lawns.—2,000 pieces Brown

Stag at \$0.64. T-Cloths.—1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Silver Lion No. 1 at \$1.92, 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Silver Lion No. 2 at \$1.86; 600 pieces 8 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.75, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$2.37 1/2, 2,250 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Gold Dragon at \$2.40. Drills.—73 pieces 14 lbs. American at \$4.35. Turkey Reds.—100 pieces 5 lbs. Bear at \$3.20. Long Ells.—150 pieces 7 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.60, 300 pieces 7 lbs. Scarlet H. and Man at \$6.65, 300 pieces 7 lbs. Assorted H. and Man at \$6.75.

METALS.—Lead.—3,860 pieces Australia at \$8.60. Tin.—300 slabs Foongchai at \$40.50. Quicksilver.—200 flasks at \$128.50.

## COTTON YARN.

per bale

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	72.00 to 105.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	109.00 to 116.00
" 22 to 24	112.00 to 117.00
" 28 to 32	123.00 to 127.00
" 38 to 42	131.00 to 180.13

## COTTON PIECE GOODS.

per piece

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	1.75 to 1.85
7 lbs.	2.00 to 2.07 1/2
8.4 lbs.	2.50 to 3.20
9 to 10 lbs.	3.40 to 4.15

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.40 to 2.60
58 to 60 "	2.75 to 3.45
64 to 66 "	3.55 to 4.40

Fine	4.35 to 7.15
Book-folds.	3.80 to 5.70

Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.65 to 1.30
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T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.55 to 1.75
7 lbs. (32 " ), "	1.90 to 2.15
6 lbs. (32 " ), Mexs.	1.70 to 1.85
7 lbs. (32 " ), "	2.10 to 2.80
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	2.40 to 3.25

Drills, English—40 yds., 13 1/2 to 14 lbs	3.75 to 5.15
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## FANCY COTTONS.

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 7 lbs.	1.47 1/2 to 3.50
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Brocades—Dyed	3.90 to 5.00
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Damasks	0.12 to 0.16
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Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.14
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Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.20 to 0.30
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Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.18
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Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.45 to 0.90
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## WOOLLENS.

per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.55 to 1.35
German	1.15 to 1.50

Habit, Med., and Broa Cloths.	1.15 to 5.25
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Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 9.00
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Assorted	6.60 to 9.10
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Camlets—Assorted	12.00 to 32.00
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Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	11.00 to 20.00
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Orleans—Plain	7.00 to 8.50
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Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	5.50 to 12.00
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## METALS.

per picul

Iron—Nail Rod	4.20 to —
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Square, Flat Round Bar	4.20 to —
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Swedish Bar	5.90 to —
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Small Round Rod	4.75 to —
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Hoop	5.50 to —
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Wire 13/25	9.00 to —
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Old Wire Rope	1.50 to 3.00
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Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop	8.55 to —
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Australian	8.55 to —
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Yellow M'tal—Muntz	14/20 oz. 31.50 to —
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Vivian's	14/20 oz. 31.00 to —
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Elliot's	14/20 oz. 31.00 to —
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Composition Nails	— to —
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Japan Copper, Slabs	30.00 to —
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Tiles	29.00 to —
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Tin	— to —
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Tin-Plates	6.05 to —
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Steel 4 to 1/2	per cwt. case 5.50 to —
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## SUNDRIES.

Quicksilver	126.00 to —
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Window Glass	4.20 to —
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Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case 1.87 to —
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SHANGHAI, 19th March.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—Piece Goods.—The market has ruled exceedingly quiet throughout the week and the business to be reported is, accordingly, very small. The severe weather up North has greatly impeded the land-
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ing and distribution of the goods shipped to Tientsin, as the steamers are unable to reach the bund, and have to discharge their cargo some miles below the settlement, to be forwarded on by rail, which has proved a tedious and expensive operation, besides delaying further orders from coming down. From recent quotations received prices have been fairly well maintained, especially for the lower cost America goods, which are taken, apparently, in preference to the higher cost standard makes, and this has kept up the demand for them here. Uncertainty about the political situation has somewhat interfered with business for Newchwang, and even foreign importers have at length been stirred into taking some notice of what threatens to be the absorption of some of China's richest and most useful provinces, although attention was called to it by us as far back as last September. A few days ago the Committee of the British China Association met the representatives of American firms here to discuss the situation, the result being the following telegram to the New York Chamber of Commerce, which body, according to last mail advices, had taken the initiative and memorialized President McKinley on the subject.—

"American merchants Shanghai endorse memorial February 3rd to President urge immediate action necessary protect American interests against aggression in North China." And a similar one was sent by the China Association. Meanwhile, however, the natives appear to be regaining confidence and at the close more attention is being paid to the probable wants for Newchwang for shipment by the steamers that are expected to clear this day week. Trade with the River Ports has been somewhat retarded by the bad weather. Although business has been quiet here there is a good healthy feeling, and the natives are confident that an improved demand will be forthcoming in a few weeks' time. English goods have been very sparingly dealt in, but what have found buyers show the firmness of the market. There is a little more inclination to indent for certain goods, even though prices are so high and Exchange so unfavourable, but the business done has not been at all general.

METALS, 21st March.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfield & Co.'s Report):—There has been a very good business during the week in Metals as will be seen by the record of completed transactions given below. At the close Nailrods are firmer than before, the closing price being 127s. 6d. for Goffins. Most of the dealers are now anxiously awaiting the arrival of their orders from home. The following have been done:—500 cases Bamboo Steel, "Double

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 25th March.—The market has ruled somewhat easier since date of last report. Business has been quieter and rates have ruled rather weaker.

**BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghais have shown a decided weakness and been on offer all the week at from 190 to 184 per cent. prem. for cash with little or no business, whilst a small demand for April at 187 to 188 per cent. prem. has remained unsatisfied. Nationals have changed hands in small lots at quotations.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Continue dull and with but little business. China Traders are on offer at \$65, without sales, Unions at \$220, and North Chinas and Yangtszes at quotations. Cantons have changed hands at the reduced rate of \$120, closing with buyers at probably better rates, and Straits are enquired for at \$12½ to \$13 after small sales at the latter rate.

**FIRE INSURANCES.**—Still remain out of the market, with sellers of Hongkongs at \$340 and of Chinas at \$100, and no sales to report.

**SHIPPING.**—Hongkong, Canton, and Macaos have further declined to \$26 $\frac{3}{4}$  after small cash sales at that and \$26 $\frac{1}{2}$ . On time shares have changed hands at \$27 $\frac{1}{2}$  for June and \$28 for July, the market closing quiet at \$27 cash. Indo-Chinas have suddenly dropped out of favour and quietness pervades the market in place of last week's great activity. A few small sales at \$60 and \$60 $\frac{1}{2}$  cash and at equivalent rates forward have taken place, but the market closes decidedly dull at quotation. China Manilas continue on offer at \$82 without business. Douglases have ruled quiet with sellers and no sales at \$59 $\frac{1}{2}$  and later at \$59. It is understood that although the last six months' earnings are satisfactory, the Consulting Committee will not recommend an interim dividend on account of the money being required for the cost of the new steamer now building for the Company. China Mutuals are still in request but without business; news has been received from London that the Company will shortly pay the usual dividend, i.e. 6 per cent., on ordinary shares.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have weakened with but little or no business to \$165 ex div. for cash, whilst a small demand for April, May, and June at considerably better than equivalent rates remains unsatisfied. The approaching settlements, which are somewhat heavy in this stock, are apparently accountable for the temporary weakness. The chairman in his speech at the general meeting stated that the prospects of the current year were good and that the demand for refined sugars in China was on the increase. Luzons have been done in small lots at \$41 and \$42 cum div. of \$3 paid on the 24th instant.

**MINING.**—Punjoms have ruled quiet at \$6.75 with little or no business and close at \$6.50 sellers. Charbonnages continue unchanged and without business at \$145. New Balmorals are out of favour for the moment, sellers ruling the market at \$1.40 and \$1.75, and no buyers coming forward. Olivers "B's" have changed hands at \$6.25 and "A's" at \$18 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Jelebus unchanged and without business. Raubs have ruled steady to strong with sales at \$25 $\frac{1}{2}$  and later at \$25 $\frac{3}{4}$ . The manager at the mine states that the March clean up will probably be as good as the last and average about 18 $\frac{3}{4}$  dwt, per ton. Great Easterns have ruled weak with sales at \$2.80 and close with sellers at that rate.

**DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.**—Hong-kong and Whampoa Docks have continued firm and have remained at 250 per cent. prem. with small sales at that and 251 for 31st inst.; at time of closing a few shares are obtainable at 249 for settlements. Kowloon Wharves continue quiet and neglected at quotation, with little or no business. Wan-chai Warehouses could be placed at \$41.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hong-kong Lands continue quiet and out of favour with sellers at \$74. Hotels after small sales at \$55 are obtainable at that rate. Humphreys Estates and West Points remain out of favour with sellers at quotations and no business.

COTTON MILLS.—Some Ewos have been placed for June at rates equivalent to Tls. 100 cash, and a few Hongkong Cotton, &c., Co. have changed hands at \$11 and \$10, ex last call of \$20. In other Cottons there is no local business to report.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Green Islands have ruled weak with sellers of old issue at \$31½ and of the new at \$15 cum dividends. Sellers rule the market at time of closing. Watsons continue on offer at \$12 without finding buyers, and Ices, Ropes, and Electrics are obtainable at quotations and without business.

**Closing quotations are as follow :—**

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
<b>Banks—</b>		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	[\$356.25, sales
China & Japan, prf.	£5	185 " prein=
Do. ordinary...	£3 10s.	nominai
Do. deferred...	£1	nominal
Natl. Bank of China		£5. 5s., buyers
B. Shares .....	£8	\$ 9, sales
Founders Shares..	£1	\$19
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75
China Sugar .....	\$100	\$166, ex div. s. & b.
<b>Cotton Mills—</b>		
Ewo...	Tls. 100	Tls. 100, sellers
Hongkong .....	\$20	\$31, sales & sellers
International .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 110, buyers
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Soychce .....	Tls. 500	Tls. 505
Yahloong .....	Tls. 100	Tls. 93
Dairy Farm Co. ....	\$5	\$5 1/2
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$30
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$29, ex div. sellers
Do. New Issue .....	\$24	\$14.50, ex div. sel.
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$120
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$9 1/2, sales
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$105
Hongkong Hotel .....	\$50	\$54, sales & sellers
Hongkong Ice .....	\$25	\$107, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$57, sales
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$164, sellers
H. & W. Dock .....	\$125	249 p. ct. prem. =
<b>Insurances—</b>		[\$436 1/2, sellers
Canton.....	\$50	\$12 1/2, sellers
China Fire .....	\$20	\$99, sellers
China Traders' .....	\$25	\$65, sellers
Hongkong Fire .....	\$50	\$33 1/2, sellers
North-China .....	£25	Tls. 148, sellers
Straits .....	\$20	\$12 1/2, buyers
Union .....	\$50	\$220, sellers
Yangtsze.....	\$60	\$14 1/2, sellers
<b>Land and Building—</b>		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$7.4, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8.25, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17, sales
West Point Building	\$40	\$20, sales
Luzon Sugar .....	\$100	\$39, ex div. sales
<b>Mining—</b>		
Charbonnages .....	Fcs. 500	\$140, sellers
Great E. & C'ouian	\$1	\$5 1/2, sellers
Do. Do.	\$24	\$2.80, sellers
Jelebu .....	\$5	\$2, sellers
New Balmoral .....	\$1	\$1.40, sellers
Do. Preference ...	\$1	\$1.70, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$18 1/2, sales
Do. B. ...	\$24	\$5 1/2, sellers
Punjom .....	\$5	\$6.25, sal. & buyer
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.90, sellers
Raubs .....	13s. 10d.	\$26, buyers
New Amoy Dock .....	\$10	\$19, sales
<b>Steamship Coy.—</b>		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$74, ex div. seller
China Mutual Ord...	£10	£7 10s., buyers
Do. Preference..	£10	£5 10s., buyers
Do. Do.	£5	£2 10s., buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$53 1/2, sellers
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$27, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$60, sales & seller
Tebran Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos .....	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37	\$41, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12, sales & sellers
	J. V.	Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 21st March.—(From Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—On account of a scarcity of ready money, and the near approach of the March settlements, there has not been much business done, except in Indo-China S. N. shares. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation. Cash shares changed hands at 196 per cent. premium, and business was done at 201/202 for delivery on the 30th June. The Market is dull, with cash shares on offer at 196.

Market is dull, with cash sales on offer at 190.  
National Bank of China shares are wanted at \$17.  
Marine Insurance.—No business reported. North  
Chinas are offering at Tls. 200. Straits shares  
might be bought under the last quotations.  
Fire Insurance.—No local business reported.  
Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been  
in strong demand, both locally and to Hongkong.  
Locally business was done at Tls. 43 to Tls. 45  
cash, Tls. 45½ and Tls. 46 for April, and Tls. 47½

for June. China Mutual S. N. Preference shares were placed at Tls. 60, and are wanted. Ordinary shares are offering at Tls. 26. Sugar Company.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are sold at Tls. 38 and are now offering at Tls. 39. China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—Shares were placed at \$178 cash and \$177½ for the 31st current. Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—Shares were wanted at \$41, but there is not much demand at the close. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares changed hands at \$28 to \$27 for cash and a small lot at \$29 for the 10th April, and are offering for cash at \$27. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. are wanted at Tls. 19½ and are offering at Tls. 200, S. C. Farnham & Co. shares changed hands and are offering at Tls. 175. Shanghai Dock shares have been in demand, and have changed hands at Tls. 84/55 cash, and Tls. 87/88 for the 30th June. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares have been sold at Tls. 126½, and are obtainable at the same price for cash or Tls. 127 for the 31st current. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 92½, and are offering. Hongkong Land Investment shares are offering at \$74. Industrial.— Shanghai Gas Co.—Shares have been placed at Tls. 217. In Cotton Mill shares, E-wos were sold at Tls. 104 for the 30th June, Internationals at Tls. 109 cash, 110/109 for the 31st March, 110 for the 30th April, Tls. 112 for the 31st May, and Tls. 115 for the 31st June, and are now wanted at Tls. 110 cash, and Yah Loong at Tls. 93½ cash and Tls. 95 for April. Shanghai Ice shares were placed at Tls. 12½. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 88 cash and for the 31st current, cum dividend, and at Tls. 85 cash, Tls. 91 for June, and Tls. 93 for August, ex dividend. Shanghai-Laengkate Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 300. Hall and Holtz shares were placed at \$40, and are offering. Loans.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. Debentures were placed at Tls. 102 plus the accrued interest.

## TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 21st March (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—There is nothing of any particular importance to record as having occurred during the past fortnight in the homeward freight market, though it may be of some interest to note the establishment of a fortnightly mail service to Hamburg by German Lines, in place of the former monthly sailings. Coastwise:—The opening of the northern ports was delayed owing to the re-appearance of frost, but cargo has now arrived at Tientsin by lighters from Taku, and it is expected that Newchwang will be able to resume trade towards the end of this month. For an outside vessel to load at Wuhu for Canton there appears to be a great demand, but owners ideas of price have not yet met with the necessary sympathy from intending charterers. For London *via* Suez.—Business continues very dull in this direction, and the berth has been amply supplied with more than requisite tonnage. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 35s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 35s.; New York *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Baltimore *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Konigsberg *via* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 35s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea, 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 20s. nominal. New York *via* Pacific, 1½ gold cents per lb. tea, 3 cents per lb. silk, \$9 per ton strawbraid. New York *via* Suez, 27s. 6d. per ton general cargo, 27s. 6d. tea; Boston, 35s. per ton general cargo; Philadelphia, 35s. per ton general cargo. Coast rates.—Moji to Shanghai \$1.50 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.40 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe season closed; Newchwang to southern ports, season closed.

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH

For LONDON.—*Socotra* (str.), *Borneo* (str.), *Dardanus* (str.), *Sunda* (str.), *Thames* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*City of Peking* (str.)  
Cap. 11 (11). West End, San Fran.

*Gaelic (str.), West York, Imberhorne,  
For New York - B. H. S.*

For New York.—*Benalder* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).  
For BREMEN.—*Bayern* (str.).  
For PORTLAND.—*Mogul* (str.).  
For AUSTRALIA.—*Tokio Maru* (str.). *Taiyuan* (str.). *Jacob Christensen* (str.).  
For MABEILLE.—*Tamba Maru* (str.).  
For VICTORIA.—*Columbia* (str.).  
For HAMBURG.—*Ceres* (str.).

## SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## HONGKONG.

March— ARRIVALS.

18, Fooksang, British str., from Saigon.  
18, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.  
18, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.  
12, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.  
19, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.  
19, Quarta, German str., from Saigon.  
19, Ariel, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.  
19, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.  
19, San Joaquim, Spanish str., from Manila.  
19, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.  
19, Astrid, Norwegian str., from Moji.  
19, Benlarig, British str., from Saigon.  
19, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Moji.  
20, Amara, British str., from Saigon.  
20, Cheangchew, British str., from Singapore.  
20, Idzumi Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.  
20, Kong Beng, British str., from Saigon.  
20, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.  
20, Nanyang, German str., from Taiwanfoo.  
20, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.  
20, Patroclus, British str., from Shanghai.  
20, Phra Chom Kiao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.  
20, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.  
20, John Baizley, Amr. sch., from Singapore.  
20, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., from Canton.  
21, Oopack, British str., from Moji.  
21, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.  
21, Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.  
21, Memou, British str., from Sandakan.  
21, Wally, German str., from Hamburg.  
21, Andalusia, German str., from Hamburg.  
21, Kalgan, British str., from Wuhu.  
21, Bumber, British storeship, from Shanghai.  
21, Kinai Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.  
21, Hupeh, British str., from Sourabaya.  
22, Yungching, Chinese str., from Canton.  
22, Jason, British str., from Liverpool.  
22, Manila, British str., from London.  
22, Tamarind, Norwegian str., from Moji.  
22, Rainbow, British cruiser, from Nagasaki.  
22, Oolong, British str., from London.  
22, Monmouthshire, British str., from London.  
22, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.  
22, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.  
22, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.  
23, Empress of China, Brit. str., from V'couver.  
23, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.  
23, Astral, British str., from Malacca.  
23, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.  
23, Hainan, German str., from Iloilo.  
23, Frej, Danish str., from Pakhoi.  
23, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from Antwerp.  
23, Tai Fu, German str., from Dunkirk.  
23, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.  
23, Activ, Danish str., from Singapore.  
24, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.  
24, Pronto, German str., from Saigon.  
24, Apeurade, German str., from Saigon.  
24, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.  
24, Mogul, British str., from Portland (Or.).  
24, Ghazee, British str., from Shanghai.  
24, Satona, British str., from Singapore.  
24, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.  
25, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.  
25, Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.  
25, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.  
25, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.  
25, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.  
25, Singapore, British str., from Bangkok.  
25, Fukui Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.  
25, Gefion, German cruiser, from Swatow.  
25, Germania, German str., from Saigon.  
25, Hansa, German str., from Saigon.  
25, Chwnshan, British str., from Bangkok.  
25, Hakusan Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.

March— DEPARTURES.

19, Yungching, Chinese str., for Canton.  
19, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.  
19, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.  
19, Douar, German str., for Saigon.  
19, Bengal, British str., for Europe.  
19, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.  
19, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.

19, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.  
19, Japan, British str., for London.  
19, Prosper, Norw. str., for Saigon.  
19, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.  
20, Benvenue, British str., for Saigon.  
20, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.  
20, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.  
20, Fooksang, British str., for Kobe.  
20, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.  
20, Onsang, British str., for Saigon.  
20, Rohilla, British str., for Yokohama.  
20, Genista, British ship, for Manila.  
20, Spinaway, British sch., for Fremantle.  
21, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.  
21, Ariel, Norwegian str., for Canton.  
21, Gisela, Austrian str., for Shanghai.  
21, Patroclus, British str., for London.  
21, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.  
21, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.  
22, Quarta, German str., for Bangkok.  
22, Lothair, Italian bark, for Callao.  
22, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.  
22, Amara, British str., for Yokohama.  
22, Palinurus, British str., for Amoy.  
22, Bormida, Italian str., for Bombay.  
22, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.  
22, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.  
22, Idzumi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.  
22, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.  
22, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.  
22, Oopack, British str., for London.  
22, Thales, British str., for Swatow.  
22, Yungching, Chinese str., for Swatow.  
22, Gefion, German cruiser, for Hainan.  
23, City of Rio de Janeiro, American str., for San Francisco.

23, Sungkiang, British str., for Amoy.  
23, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Hongay.  
23, Dean, British str., for Bangkok.  
23, Elphinstone, British str., for Saigon.  
23, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Rangoon.  
23, Konoura Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.  
23, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
23, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.  
23, Oolong, British str., for Shanghai.  
23, Progress, German str., for Kobe.  
24, Andalusia, German str., for Shanghai.  
24, Hupeh, British str., for Bangkok.  
24, Jason, British str., for Swatow.  
24, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
24, Manila, British str., for Shanghai.  
24, Oslo, Norwegian str., for Saigon.  
24, Wally, German str., for Yokohama.  
24, Sissoi Veliky, Russian battleship, for Nagasaki.  
24, Navaria, Russian battleship, for Nagasaki.  
25, Tetartos, German str., for Nagasaki.  
25, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., for Nagasaki.  
25, Kong Beng, British str., for Saigon.  
25, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.  
25, Phra Chom Kiao, British str., for B'kok.  
25, Barfleur, British battleship, for Nagasaki.  
25, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.  
25, Benlarig, British str., for Iloilo.  
25, Germania, German str., for Saigon.  
25, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.  
25, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.  
25, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.  
25, Kanagawa Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.

## PASSENGER LIST.

## ARRIVED.

Per Japan, from Shanghai for London, Mr. E. Middleton, Mrs. H. Morris, Miss Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. Barff and child.  
Per Chusan, for Hongkong from London, Messrs. W. Newton, M. Jensen, W. J. Kers, B. Tanner, Haslam, C. Rockstroh and Potts, Mr. and Mrs. Grimshaw and Miss J. Mason; from Brindisi, Messrs. Gilmore and E. T. Bond; from Bombay, Messrs. A. Joosub, Mr. C. Shah, K. Hoosenali, Ah Kum, Hong Ping and Hong Ching; from Singapore, Messrs. Greig, N. Plant, Buchard, M. Molyneux, Orr and J. Reid; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. Simmons, Heap, Harrison, C. Simpson, T. Thompson and Sellick, Mrs. Elam, Mrs. Noyes, Mrs. Etchells, Mr. and Mrs. Pettican, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, children and infant, Misses Macdonald, Johannson, Lagerston and Sjoberg and Mrs. E. Spragie, children and infant; from Brindisi, Messrs. McGregor Grant, Lotz and J. Berg; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards; from Bombay, Mr. A. Ebrahim; from Singapore, Mr. F. Nielson. For Kobe, from Bombay, Mr. L. S. Hudson; from Singapore, Mr. Deacon. For Yokohama, from London, Mr.

H. S. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Rooper, Miss Rooper, Mr. and Mrs. De la Poer and Mr. A. Petrocochino; from Marseilles, Mrs. A. Rose and maid, Messrs. H. Routhwell and Ramsbottom; from Brindisi, Messrs. G. Esch, Howie and B. Isaac, Mr. and Mrs. Arkwright, Mr. and Mrs. Cockburn; from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Terry; from Colombo, Mr. W. C. Arnould; from Bombay, Major and Mrs. Yates.

Per Manila, from London for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Stackwood, Miss Colcutt, Midshipmen Monsell, Bailey, Wake, Gipps, Boyes, Tabreau, Addison, Brooker, Baydon, Hanning-Lee; Naval Cadets St. John, Alexander, Brownrigg, Fanshawe, Rane, Fforde, Dickson; Hon. Forbes-Sempill, Messrs. D. E. Smith and A. E. Tabreau.

Per Suisang, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. Livingston, Miss Livingston, Messrs. Schieffler, Talmage, Dashiell, Colbey, Hinton and Adams, and 500 Chinese.

Per Empress of China, from Vancouver, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Laurie, Mrs. Mack, Mrs. Breed, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Mr. J. Hermann, Miss M. L. McLeay, Mr. R. L. McLeay, Messrs. H. B. McQueen, Choy Chick Nam, F. W. Mills, G. Naguoka, K. Murakami, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Botelho.

Per Haimun, from Tamsui, &c., Master Mackay, Mr. Muller, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and two children.

Per Guthrie, from Australia, Hon. J. L. Parsons, Messrs. C. Paget and J. M. Knapp.

## DEPARTED.

Per Bengal, from Hongkong for London, Messrs. W. Findlay, J. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Regas, Messrs. D. Johnson, K. Takahashi, R. Ichinomiya, Miss Gordon, Lieut. D. L. Dent, Messrs. G. Boyland, F. King, George Potts, Asst. Paymaster F. W. Preece, and Mr. F. Dingle; for Marseilles, Messrs. Kanakami, K. Ito, S. Akashi, H. Uyeno, Dr. and Mrs. Riddell; for Gibraltar, Dr. Pinnetro d'Almeida, Mrs. Costa d Silva, and Major A. M. Cataja; for Colombo, Mr. G. S. Beebe; for Singapore, Rev. A. A. dos Santos, Messrs. K. Reghoomail and Iserdasa.

Per Japan, for London, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stewart Lockhart and 2 children, Mr. C. Harton, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Brown, Rev. W. McGregor, Mr. F. Maitland, Miss Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. Weynon, Mrs. Leigh, child and infant, Mrs. Uldale, children and 2 infants, Mrs. Bannister and 2 children, and Miss Finney; for Singapore, Rev. W. Bannister.

Per Rohilla, for Nagasaki from Hongkong, Mr. S. Ikesaki; for Kobe, Mr. A. D. Pedley; from Bombay, Mr. S. S. Hudson; for Yokohama from London, Messrs. A. M. Thomas, H. S. Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Rooper, and Mr. A. Petrocochino; from Marseilles, Mrs. A. Pope, Messrs. H. Routhwell, H. and G. Ramsbottom; from Brindisi, Mr. G. W. Esch, Mr. and Mrs. Arkwright, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Cockburn, and Mr. Howie; from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Terry; from Hongkong, Mr. C. R. C. Nader.

Per Chusan, for Shanghai, Baron P de Gunzberg, Messrs. W. Cumming, C. E. Bourn, Teng Lang Sang, H. Roberts, W. Milligan, Wegener, and Kuen Yuk.

Per City of Rio de Janeiro, for Shanghai, General and Mrs. Von Gottberg, Mr. and Mrs. Von Oentzen, Messrs. Chas. J. Davol, E. Birchard, Miss Hodges, Mr. Kennelly, and Mr. Lo Fat Hong; for Kobe, Messrs. Clinstoph Gras Dohna, Conrad Gras Dohna, Erich Meyer, Mrs. S. E. Levy and 2 children, Mr. V. F. Deacon, Miss Satow; for Yokohama, Mrs. E. Hirshberg, Miss C. Moake, Messrs. Helhey, Kallenberg, Reedel, F. Prange, Mr. and Mrs. D. Fock, Miss D. Fock, Master Fock, Mrs. Willer, Mr. Gittins, Miss Gittins, Messrs. Tarachand and Bago-mull; for San Francisco, Miss M. Knoke, Mr. Holcomb, Mrs. Holcomb, Messrs. M. Reynolds, Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Clementson, and Mrs. Coburn; for London, Messrs. S. C. Longhurst, T. Greig, and Corehreck Shak.

Per Manila, for Shanghai from London, Mrs. Elam, Mrs. Noyes, Messrs. Esch and Ramsbottom; from Hongkong, Messrs. C. W. Allen, Van der Zypen, and Schultz; for Yokohama, Mrs. Chas. M. McCleary, and Miss M. C. Clarke.